# STARS STRIPES.

Racing Stripes: Could Stewart be a few big wins from retirement?

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NASCAR Chief Tany Bewurt

Calif. band revels in camaraderie with Gls while playing in Iraq

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Volume 2. No.319 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005

"Their stories don't make the front pages"

# **America's second army**

Civilian contractors take on roles formerly held by military personnel but lack the same level of recognition

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....

Above: An Iraqi policeman makes his way through the rubble after a man wearing a police uniform drove a car bom hibto the police held after a man wearing a police uniform drove a string off a massive explosion that killed at least 15 policemen. Right: Iraqi were green at the side of a pickup track carrying one of the Tikrit dead. Other acts of the property of the side of a pickup track of the side of the Tikrit dead. Other areas of Thursday's death toll to 30.

# Series of attacks kills at least 30, including 2 GIs

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#### ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

Michael Jackson trial: The jury in Michael Jackson's child molestation trial includes several fans of his music, four parents of young children, a woman whose grandson was convict of a sexual offense, and a man who visited Jackson's Neverland ranch as a child.

The four men and eight women seated Wednesday in Santa Maria, Calif., were primarily white and Hispanic and did not appear to include any of the half-dozen blacks who were in the pool of more than 240 pros-

Race could be a factor because public opinion polls show blacks are less inclined to believe the charges against Jackson, who is black

Honduran bus attack suspect: The reputed leader of a violent Honduran gang was using an alias, but the tattoos on his body gave him away

Further checking revealed the man arrested in Texas on Feb. 10 was Ever Anibal Rivera Paz, known as "El Culiche" - The Tape-

Rivera Paz had escaped Jan. 23 from a Honduran prison where he was being held on charges of masterminding an armed attack on a bus that killed 28 people, including six children, in December.

Officials from the Homeland Security Department and the Honduran govern said Rivera Paz was the leader of the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, gang in Honduras. He remains in federal custody

Fight over brain-damaged woman: The parents of Terri Schiavo won another reprieve in their fight to keep the brain-damaged woman alive after a Florida judge extended an emergency stay keeping her feeding tube in place

The stay had been set to expire Wednesday afternoon, but Pinellas Circuit Judge



Robert and Mary Schindler

viously believed.

Greer ex-tended it until 5 p.m. Friday. A lawver for the par-

iudge block removal of Schiavo's feeding tube so the family can have more time to determine if she has greater mental capabilities than pre-

had

The Schindlers also want more time to try to remove Schiavo's husband as legal guard-

Utah school threat: A student charged with plotting to bomb an eastern Utah high school last year entered a plea to a misdemeanor count of making a terroristic threat.

The Alford plea Wednesday by Steven A. Kunzler, 18, means he did not admit guilt but agrees the state has enough evidence to convict him. He also pleaded guilty to attempted burglary.

Prosecutors say Kunzler and three other students plotted to kill classmates, teachers and administrators by placing a bomb in the commons area of Uintah High School in Ver-

Bird flu vaccine: The federal government is getting ready to test a bird flu vaccine and stockpiling both vaccine and antiviral drugs as the threat grows that a deadly strain of avian influenza will begin spreading from

Two million doses of vaccine are being stored in bulk form for possible emergency



Clinton tour of Asia: Former President Bill Clinton signs his autobiography for South Korean fans during a party Thursday celebrating the publication of his autobiography "My Life" in Seoul. At a dinner hosted by the publisher of the Korean edition of the best-selling memoir, Clinton expressed optimism Thursday that an international standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs can be resolved peacefully. "I hope that China and all friends of the Korean people will make it succeed," he said, according to a pool report.

use and to test whether it maintains its potency officials said Wednesday

United Nations officials warned that the Asian bird flu outbreak poses the "gravest possible danger" of becoming a global pan-

#### Military

Army helicopter crash in Texas: An Army helicopter crash that killed seven soldiers in November in Texas was caused by the pilots' attempt to fly under visual flight rules in poor weather conditions, an investigation has found

Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, said administrative disciplinary action has been taken against the company and battalion commander and two members of the chain of command. The company commander has

All seven soldiers aboard died Nov. 29 when their Black Hawk apparently hit cables supporting a TV transmission tower about 20 minutes into the two-hour flight to the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana,

#### World

Milosevic tribunal: Judges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague warned former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Thursday not to dwell on the 1999 NATO bombing at his war crimes trial.

Milosevic is presenting his defense against 66 charges, including genocide, at the lengthy trial that began in 2002 and will likely conclude in 2006

Milosevic argues his troops were engaged in a legitimate fight against rebels and terrorists, and that it was the NATO bombing that caused most civilian deaths and drove more than 1 million refugees from the region - not Serb troops as alleged in his in-

Afghan plane crash: The first bodies retrieved from a crashed Afghan airliner were returned to their grieving relatives on Thursday, three weeks after the plane smashed into a mountain during a snowstorm. An official said the bodies of an American and a Russian have been identi-

Bad weather has slowed recovery efforts on the freezing peak near the Afghan capital where the plane hit Feb. 3, killing all 108 neonle on hoard On Thursday morning, staff at a Kabul

hospital carried coffins containing the remains of four Afghan men to the ambulances to take them back to their villages.

Yuschenko poisoning: Prosecutors in Ukraine are following a new lead that might shed more light on the dioxin poisoning of Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko, an official said Wednesday

Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun has acquired audiotapes of what appeared to be a conversation between Russian secret service officials discussing the alleged role of Moscow political analyst Gleb Pavlovsky in Yushchenko's poisoning, said Piskun's spokesman, Vyacheslav Astapov.

In the recordings, people described as Russian agents appeared to be discussing Pavlovsky's role in a plot aimed at damaging Yushchenko's ratings by ruining his good looks with toxic chemicals

Afghan border clashes: Gunbattles near Afghanistan's insurgent-haunted border with Pakistan left six suspected Taliban militants dead and five government soldiers wounded, Afghan police said.

The soldiers were hurt when guerrillas opened fire on their vehicle near Ali Khel, a town in Khost province 90 miles south of Kabul, police chief Mohammed Ayub told The Associated Press.

Extra troops sent to aid their comrades from a government-aligned regional militia tracked the retreating attackers to a nearby mountain where they engaged them again, killing six rebels, Ayub said. Five assault rifles and a rocket-launcher were seized, he

Palestinian government reform: The Palestinian parliament on Thursday approved a 24-member Cabinet dominated by professional appointees, including nearly half with doctoral degrees, in a major move toward long-promised government reform.

The 54-12 vote, with four abstentions, ended days of wrangling between rebellious legislators and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, who initially sought to reappoint political cronies of the late Yasser Arafat.

Stories and photos from wire services



photos

Iraqi policemen carry away the body of a colleague in a carpet after a man wearing a police uniform drove a car bomb into police headquarters in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, Iraq, on Thursday, It set off a massive explosion that killed at least 15 people.

## **Bomb blasts Iraqi police station**



Two Iraqi policeman console each other after the Tikrit blast.

## Series of attacks kill 30 across Iraq including 2 U.S. soldiers

BY SAMEER N. YACOUBD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A man wearing a police uniform drove a car bomb into police headquarters in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in the largest of a series of attacks on Thursday in Iraq that left a total of 30 people dead, including two U.S. soldiers.

The violence came a day after interim Prime Minister Ayad Al-lawi announced he was forming a coalition to try to hold onto his post in the next government and block the candidate of the dominant Shinte political alliance. The U.S. command said two American soldiers were killed and two day, one northeast of Baghdad in Qaryat, and a second near Samarra, west of Qaryat.

At least five other Iraqi police were killed in separate attacks across the insurgent-wracked country, including another suicide car bomb assault on a police convoy in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital

Two roadside bombs in Qaim, near the Syrian border, also killed four Iraqi National Guardsmen, Iraqi Lt. Col. Abid Ajab Al-Salmani said.

In the capital, gunmen opened fire on a bakery, killing two people and wounding a third, police

said. Several blasts echoed through the city at midday, but their cause was not immediately known

The blast in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, occurred at one of the station's busiest times, when dozens of policemen were arriving to relieve colleagues who'd been working all night, police Col. Saad Daham said. The attack killed 15 police and wounded nearly two dozen others.

"He waited until the shift change, then he exploded the car," Daham said of the attacker, adding the aim was "to kill as many as possible."

Daham said the bomber was able to slip into the station undetected because he was wearing a police lieutenant's uniform. He blamed guards at the station's gates for allowing the assailant to enter without checking his papers or searching his vehicle.

Twenty cars were set ablaze after the massive blast, sending clouds of smoke into the sky. An Associated Press photographer on the scene saw at least 10 charred bodies laying on the ground, which was splattered with pools of blood and bits of buman flesh.

Several ambulances raced to the blast site, ferrying casualties

#### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005, at least 1,484 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,126 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when

President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,346 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,017 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier died Wednesday when an explosive detonated near Tuz, Iraq, north of Baghdad

■ A Marine died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq.

The latest identifications re-

The latest identification ported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Trevor D. Aston, 32, Austin, Texas died Tuesday after a vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to Marine Forces Reserves 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Austin. Texas

Division, Austin, Texas.
Killed Monday when an explosive detonated near their convoy in Baghdad; assigned to the Minnesota National Guard, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, Montevideo,

■ Army 1st Lt. Jason Timmerman, 24, Tracy, Minn.

merman, 24, Tracy, Minn.

■ Army Staff Sgt. David
Day, 25, St. Louis Park, Minn.

Day, 25, St. Louis Park, Minn.
Army Sgt. Jesse Lhotka,
24, Alexandria, Minn.

to a local hospital. U.S. troops sealed off the area and set up checkpoints and searched vehicles across the city.

Elsewhere, insurgents ambushed a police patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk with a roadside bomb, killing two policemen and injuring three.

In Iskandariyah, a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of an office that serves as the local headquarters of the Shitte Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, killing five people, including three police officers and a child who was walking down the road at the time, the government said.

Police initially said the attack targeted the town's police chief, Col. Salman Ali, who escaped unharmed. U.S. civilians working in Iraq are making big sacrifices, but most people don't know it

## The sting of being **overlooked**

By KIRSTEN SCHARNRERG Chicago Tribune

ASTORIA, Ore. - Having no idea of the significance of his de-livery, the FedEx driver hurriedly tossed five massive boxes containing everything Anthony Stramiello had possessed in Iraq onto his widow's front porch.

Roberta Stramiello was jolted from the living room sofa by the thuds

"I'd better go see what's going on out there," she said apprehen-sively. The last time strangers had been milling about her front porch - on the evening of Dec. 21 - they had been there to tell her that her husband was dead.

It is perhaps revealing that the personal effects of Anthony Stramiello, a 61-year-old construction contractor who had been working in the Iraqi city of Mosul at the time of his death, were returned to the United States with so little ceremony on a recent February morning.

In the nearly two years since

the war began in Iraq, at least 232 civilians working on U.S. military reconstruction contracts have been killed there, many in violent but largely overlooked slayings, according to a report issued to Congress several weeks ago.

Because of difficulties in ac-counting for this virtual army of private contractors in Iraq many of whom are working in supply, logistics and even combat roles integral to the military's mis-- the death toll actually could be far higher

The number of civilian contractors who have been killed in Iraq is far greater than any other group over there other than the U.S. military itself," said Peter Singer, an expert on national security and Iraq military contracts at the Brookings Institution

#### Below the radar

Yet aside from brief moments of attention after high-profile kid-nappings, beheadings or bloody ambushes caught on videotape the public's focus rarely has been on these at-risk civilian workers.

Few Americans seem aware these contractors are dying at a rate never before seen in American military history, and the bulk of the public's support and sympa-thy remains directed toward the families of the more than 1,400 military personnel killed on duty



sometimes "[Contractors] don't come home to funerals with full military honors or flag-draped coffins or bugles playing taps. Their fami-lies don't get letters from the president," Stramiello said. "I guess I didn't feel that way personally for me, my husband is gone either way — but I can understand how others might feel the sting of

they barely even make Page 28

The best method the U.S. Department of Labor has for tracking the number of contractors killed in Iraq is to monitor how many insurance claims are made under the Defense Base Act, a law that requires employees who work on national or international government contracts to be provided insurance, including compensation benefits in the event of their deaths. But some families may not know they are entitled to



Civilian contractors install a gunner's shield atop a Humvee from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at an armor installation facility in Kuwait last July.

such benefits and never officially report their family member's

Adding to the difficulty of monitoring how many contractors die in Iraq is the fact that there is no organization keeping an official tally of the number of civilians working there. Such an account-ing would be difficult because the workers come from dozens of different countries despite the fact they all are employed by companies that have been awarded U.S. military and reconstruction con-

#### In from the Cold War

Irag's battlefield actually was shaped most pivotally by events of the previous century. After the end of the Cold War, militaries around the world began to downsize. But at the same time, the world began to change - and destabilize in some places. Whole regions of the world

were becoming so volatile that their governments were looking

to hire professionals to protect them from violent senaratists. Globalization was bringing Western companies into these same unsettled parts of the world, and they, too, needed security consultants and protection. And Islamic

fundamentalism and terrorism were increasing to the degree that some peacekeepers and humanitarian aid groups soon found Few Americans themselves

contractors are

duina at a rate

never before seen

in American

need of private guards. developed to fill all needs these what Singer has dubbed "nriva military tized

firms

"PMFs are busi ness providers of military history. professional ser vices intricately linked to warfare -

in other words, the corporate evolution of the age-old practice of mercenaries," Singer, who is considered the nation's foremost expert on the topic, writes in an upcoming issue of Foreign Affairs maga-

In 2002, as it became clear the country was headed toward war, a number of factors all but guaranteed that an unprecedented number of civilian workers would be required to pull it off, Singer

The war would be more politically palatable if fewer troops were deemed necessary to deploy, he argued. Army Chief of Staff Gen Eric Shinseki in fact was pressed into retirement from his job after he predicted that an invasion of Iraq would require "several hundred thousand" troops, not the less than 150,000 United States eventually

#### Into the breach

When the war began in March 2003, civilian contractors filled any gap between bodies deployed and bodies needed. But outsourcing this work to private workers did not come cheaply - or without risk.

Where once a low-paid private first class might be assigned to serve food in the mess hall, now civilian contractors could demand high wages to take those jobs. Where soldiers could be court-martialed for refusing to carry out an order, civilian contractors could refuse to take missions — delivering fuel or ammunition, for example — if they believed they were too danger

"I think there is a significant question as to whether very heavy use of civil-

ian contractors is cost-effective, said Scott Silliseem aware these man, the executive director of Center on Law, Ethics and National Security at Duke Universi-

ty.
"In addition to that, there is the loss of control. But it does accom-

plish the objective of allowing the personnel in uniform to be assigned to the combat-specific, trigger-pull roles in-stead of using them for logistics

and support. Silliman, a former Air Force judge advocate who supervised deployment of all Air Force attorneys to the 1991 Gulf War, worries even more about the legal issues that may result from the presence of civilian contractors

"There are two important things to consider," he said. "The vulnerability of these civilians and the accountability of these civilians. If they are hurt or killed there, what legal protections are afforded them? If they commit

crimes, can they be prosecuted?"

Back at the Victorian mansion she and her husband had been painstakingly rehabbing before he went to Iraq, Roberta Stramiello spends little time in the rooms the couple already had finished, instead wandering through the ones that remain torn apart. She constantly points out what still needs to be done.

"I've done everything I can in this room," she says sadly, "the rest of the work I need Tony to

After the FedEx driver left on that recent morning, Roberta Stra miello made her way outside to begin the painful process of un-packing her dead husband's things. The five black trunks waited on the front porch Anthony Stramiello had built



Kevin DaVee, Engineer and Construction Division, chips away at the crusted earth while examining oil spill contamination in Iraq's southern Rumaila oil fields. A Corps of Engineers contractor with ERST/O'Brien stands by ready to assist.

#### Closed hearing illegal

DENVER - An Army officer illegally closed a December hear-ing on the alleged suffocation death of an Iraqi general and must keep open as much of the rest of the hearing as possible, a military appeals court ruled Wednesday.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in Arlington, Va., said Capt. Rob-ert Ayers' made an "ill-considered, overbroad and clearly erroneous" decision to close the hearing at Fort Carson to avoid releas ing classified information

The judges ordered him to re-lease an edited version of the 285-page transcript to The Den-ver Post, which appealed the clo-

The nanel which ordered a halt to the hearing Dec. 3, the day after it began, said the hearing could resume, but ordered Ayers to close remaining portions of the hearing only if he determines expected testimony would reveal classified information

Fort Carson spokesman Lt. Col. David Johnson said it was too soon to tell when the hearing might resume, and when an edit ed version of the transcript could

#### Bulgarian peacekeepers

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Parliament on Thursday decided to send an additional Bulgarian unit to join the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan

Up to 30 military with personal weapons and equipment will be committed to the operation besides the Bulgarian mechanized infantry platoon already serving in Afghanistan

The new unit will include staff officers, an intelligence and coun terintelligence team, military po-lice and medical officers.

The decision to boost the number of peacekeepers in Afghanistan is according to the requirements of NATO, which Bulgaria joined last year. There are cur-rently 32 Bulgarian soldiers in Afghanistan

The Associated Pres



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## Army overhauling its operations at detention centers

reworked

trainina

operations.

and is

rewriting

doctrine to

clarify what

is permitted.

By JOSH WHITE The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - The Army has initiated extensive changes in the way it trains for and conducts its worldwide detention operations, acknowledging that a series

of investigations into prisoner abuses in Iraq. Afghanistan and Cuba revealed failures, omissions or confusion in Army doctrine and train ing that might have contributed to the abuses Gen

Maj. Donald Ryder, the Army's provost marshal general and head of the Army's criminal investigation command. said

Wednesday that the wide-ranging abuse investigations launched after the Abu Ghraib prison scandal prompted the Army to rework its detention operations, specifically in training soldiers about their roles in prisons and rewriting doctrine to clarify what they are permitted to do in their jobs Some of the investigations released over the past year pointed to confusion between military police and military intelligence sol-

diers and a lack of clarity about allowable interrogation techniques Ryder's description Wednesday of an over-haul in training The Armu has

and doctrine contrasted with early Army investiga tions, which ruled out doctrinal or systemic prob-lems as the root causes of the abuse. The Army's inspector general, who issued his re-

port on the abuses to Congress in July, called the abuses at Abu Gh-

raib "aberrations" and wrote that they should be blamed on "the failure of individuals to follow known standards of discipline and Army values and, in some cases, the failure of a few leaders to enforce those standards of discipline.

COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/A

U.S. Army Military Police escort a detainee to his cell in January 2002 at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where detainees from the war on terror have been kept since shortly after the invasion of Afghanistan. Abuse investigations at U.S. military prisons have prompted the Army to rework its detention operations at U.S. prisons worldwide, specifically in training soldiers about their roles.

Ryder told reporters at the Pentagon on Wednesday that the Army has since altered its interrogation policies and techniques, developed a new training program for correctional soldiers, and revised two doctrine manuals and created six new doctrine manuals that relate to detention operations. He said the Army also is planning to add 35 specialized correctional units over the next three

"The Army has taken action ...," Ryder said. "This is an ongoing learning process."

Specifically at Abu Ghraib, the soldiers who have been criminally implicated in abuses were low-ranking military police soldiers who said they had little or no training in correctional operations. Some also said they were approached by military intelligence officials to help in interrogation efforts that employed tactics that are considered torture by international standards, including the use of military working dogs.

Ryder also said the Army has retooled its interrogations manual to clarify which tactics are anproved and to define the "left and right boundaries," so less is left up to an interrogator's discretion and so the tactics comply with the Geneva Conventions.

### Iraq airs tape of alleged Syria-trained insurgents

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - The Syrian intelligence officer who appeared on the U.S.-funded Iraqi state television station had a stark message about the insurgency he'd helped train people to build car bombs and behead people.

"My name is Anas Ahmed al-Essa. I live in Halab. I am from Syria," he said by way of introduction - naming what he said was his home in Syria Halah is another name for Aleppo, a city north of Damascus.

"What's your job?" he was asked by someone off-camera. "I am a lieutenant in intelligence."

Then a second question.
"Which intelligence?" The reply: "Syrian intelligence."

And so began a detailed 15-minute confession broadcast by al-Iraqiya TV on Wednesday, in which the man, identified as 30-year-old Lt. Anas Ahmed al-Essa, said his group was recruited to "cause chaos in Iraq .. to bar America from reaching Syria."

"We received all the instructions from Syrian intelligence said the man, who appeared in the propaganda video along with 10 Iraqis who said they had also been recruited by Syrian intelligence officers.



Al-Iraqiya, the U.S.-funded Iraqi state television channel, aired Wednesday what it said were confessions from Sudanese and Egyptians allegedly trained in Syria to carry out attacks in Iraq. In this video image, alleged insurgent Egyptian Mustafa al-Savved Madbouli is interviewed.

Later, al-Iragiva aired another round of interviews with men it said were Sudanese and Egyptians who also trained in Syria to carry out attacks in Iraq

Syrian officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the claims, which were not possible to authenticate independent-

An Iraqi special forces commander, Brig. Gen. Abu Al-Walid, said his forces arrested the men in Mosul on Jan. 29, one day before the national elections. He said they included eight Syrians, one Lebanese, 12 Egyptians and 10 Sudanese.

He said the men were found with explosives, weapons and maps for balloting centers in

On Thursday, Iraqi police said they arrested four other suspect-ed terrorists during raids in Baghdad - two Syrians and two Iraqis believed to have carried out other

attacks.
The videos were broadcast as the Bush administration steps up pressure on Syria to stop meddling in Iraqi affairs by allowing insurgents to cross into the coun try to fight coalition troops and by harboring former Iraqi regime members. Syria has denied the charges.

officials in Irag's U.S.-backed interim government have called on Syria to hand over former members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party who fled there after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, which Syria vehemently opposed.

Al-Iraqiya TV can be seen na-tionwide and is believed to be widely watched by Iraqis. But the station, which went on the air in May 2003 with help from the Pentagon, is viewed by many Iraqis as an American propaganda tool

Wednesday was the first time the channel showed someone it claimed was a Syrian intelligence officer.

All those interviewed in the first video apparently were detained in the northern city of Mosul. It was not known where the interviews were made, and no date was provided

## California band rocks on for troops in Iraq

BY TOM BERG

The Orange County Register

FULLERTON, Calif. - At first it was just another job. Now Jon

Bullock can't get enough of Iraq. Bullock, 38, of Fullerton, has been nearly blown up by mortars. He's been knocked on his butt by heliconter backwash. He's commuted to work in Falluiah sitting beside men pointing 50-caliber machine guns out open doors.

And he's just a rock 'n' roll

Bullock is one of dozens of California musicians who've become nearly obsessed about playing for U.S. troops in Iraq. It's the camaraderie, they say. The opportunity to witness history. The feeling they get when a servicemember thanks them for risking their lives to come play music.

"I don't know anybody who comes back with the same outlook on life," says Bullock, preparing for his third trip to Iraq in a year with his band, Off The Wall. "It's not about war, really, so much. It's about each man and woman over there. It's just something I feel I was meant to do." Meant to do Strong words from

a guy who was never military-minded, who didn't agree with our reason for invading Iraq.

"I've played for 8,000 people before, and it was nothing comnared to some of these shows we did," he says. "It was just that you could tell these people really, really appreciated you, you know?"



Drummer Jon Bullock and his band, Off the Wall, have made two trips to Iraq to entertain troops stationed there. He has acquired several souvenirs from soldiers, including his hat.

Members of Orange County bands Tread the Cobra and Bill Davis and Endless Highway say the same thing. Like Bullock, they've crisscrossed Iraq by Black Hawk helicopter at 150 mph, skimming 100 feet off the ground with machine gun fire below. Like Bullock, they've withstood mud, sleepless nights and sitting in portable toilets in 120-degree temperatures. Like Bullock, they've been rocked by

mortar fire and run for shelter

And like Bullock, they're hooked. Eager to return. "Unless you've been there, you

don't realize how good your life is," says Bill Davis, 53, of Newport Beach, who was chosen entertainer of the year in 2000 by the California Country Music Association. "The troops kept saying, 'Thank you, thank you for coming. We know you sacrificed to be here.' But I wasn't sacrificing anything compared to them."

The road to Iraq for Southern

tour bus watching movies," he

"One day, I looked out the window, and there was this guy sit-ting on a Humvee with a 50-caliber machine gun, riding in 10-degree weather, just protecting us. It was snowing and the wind was blowing his parka. I almost started crying, you know - this guy is protecting my life just because I'm a freaking musician. It changed him.

In the past five years Bullock, who also works as a sound man at the Cerritos Center for Performing Arts, has made more than 10 trips to Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Germany, South Korea, and Iraq. This May, he'll return to Iraq for another monthlong tour. He gets paid but a fraction of what he earns as a musician here. His hand lives, eats and sleens with troops. And now it travels by Black Hawk or CH-46 helicopter at night.

"They fly low and fast, then all of a sudden they rush up fast to clear an electric pole or tree, then they're back down," he says.

'It's nerve-wracking. The payoff starts when the band performs, playing songs such as "California Love" by Tupac Shakur, "Freedom" by Jimi Hendrix, and "Rockin' in the Free World" by Neil Young.

"If I don't come off that stage totally exhausted, I didn't do something right," he says. "They're standing, velling and screaming, It's just chaos, Nuts."

#### Indonesian iournalists freed by Iraq insurgents

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Two Indonesian journalists held for six days by insurgents in Iraq credited the government's quick response for their release and said they were treated well by their captors - even praying and eating alongside them.

The two Metro TV journalists - Meutya Hafid, 26, and cameraman Budiyanto, 36 - were reunit-ed with their families Thursday in Jakarta at a ceremony in the grounds of the State Palace in Jakarta attended by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhovono

The two journalists along with their driver were detained on Feb. 15 and released Monday after a televised appeal by Yudhovono in which he said the two were in Iraq because of Indonesia's concern for the Iraqi people.

"We would like to express our gratitude to the president for his quick response to clarify our status," said Hafid.

"It was his statement that sped up our release. Our captors said they were surprised to see how



quick the response was and said that our president and our country must have loved us very

In a videotape received Monday by Associated Press Television News in Baghdad, the militants said they had released the two because of the "goodwill" shown by the captives and reli-

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim country and opposed the

The pair said they were treated well and that they ate and prayed alongside their captors.

"We even dined together with them just like a family," said Budiyanto, who goes by a single

More than 190 foreigners have been abducted in Iraq in the past

At least 13 foreigners remain in the hands of their captors, more than 30 were killed and the rest were freed or escaped.



California bands was paved in

2000 - three years before the

U.S. military arrived. Back then,

U.S. troops were keeping the peace in Bosnia and Kosovo,

while an Upland booking agent

was looking for bands to entertain

them. One of the first groups signed for Bosnia and Kosovo

was Bullock's Off The Wall. Bombs were still exploding, Fight-

ing flared. All Bullock knew was

that he'd earn \$2,200 for two

Above: Indonesian Metro TV reporter Meutva Hafid hugs her mother, Meity, as they are reunited at the presidential palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday, Left: Metro TV cameraman Budivanto is embraced by his

The last journalist kidnapped in Iraq was Italian Giuliana Sgrena, a reporter for the newspaper Il Manifesto who was abducted on Feb. 4 by gunmen in Baghdad.

She appeared in a video delivered to APTN on Wednesday begging for her life and warning foreigners — including journalists to leave the country.

She was held by a previously unheard of group of insurgents called Mujahedeen Without Borders

#### Pakistan court hears appeals in Pearl case

The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan court in Pakistan on Thursday began hearing the appeals of four militants convicted in the killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, lawvers

Pearl was kidnapped Jan. 23, 2002, and later beheaded in the southern city of Karachi while he was researching a story on Islamic militancy.

In July 2002, British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was sentenced to death and three other Pakistanis to life imprisonment for involvement in the abduction and execution of the American journalist. The government is also seeking death penalties for the three: Fahad Naseem, Salman Saqib and Sheikh Mohammed

On Thursday, Sindh High Court began hearing both the appeals of the four convicted men, and the government's application for the death penalty for the three sentenced to life imprisonment.

Adeel

Abdul Waheed Katpar, the lead counsel for Sheikh, said he questioned the validity of evidence that convicted his cli-

Five other suspects in the slaying remain at large.

## **USMC** creates training unit

#### Force designed to aid foreign militaries in hot spots

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - Taking a page from the Army's special forces playbook, the Marine Corps is creating a unit designed to train local militaries in hot spots around the world, according to the commandant.

"We're now in the process of standing up a training unit within the Marine Corps," Gen. Mike Hagee told a gathering of reporters Thursday in Washington.

Tentatively dubbed the Foreign Military Training Unit, the new organization will come in the wake of several training missions the Corns has taken on in recent vears in far-flung locations such as Niger, Chad and the former Soviet republic of Georgia

"It's a capability that we've had, we've just never had a unit devoted to this," said Hagee.

The FMTUs will be built in

partnership with the Army special forces and the joint U.S. Special Operations Training Command. Indeed, FMTUs will be treading into one of special forces' core missions - gunfighters



Gen. Mike Hagee

with intensive language training and culture savvy, capable of quickly inserting into a trouble spot to train up local forces.

"One of the things we don't have that the Green Berets have are all these language skills," said Hagee. "So, this is going to be a joint effort, especially initially when we're going to be looking for help from them on some of the language skills and some of the

cultural understanding." Hagee said the unit will be manned with about 400 Marines and will probably be based on the East Coast. Plans call for the unit to be fully operational by the end

of the year The FMTUs will fall under another new Security Cooperation Education Training Center based at Ouantico. Va., according to a

Marine spokesman. Meanwhile, Hagee said he was



42d Infantry And ALL US Forces



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With all respect. Rick Slavens

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#### Combat tour lengths

The commandant of the Marine Corps says he's open to changing the lengths of combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, but for now there are no plans to do so.

"We're obviously open to that, but all the indications that we have is that this is working really quite well for us - it's working well for the individual Marine and it's working well for the families," Gen. Mike Hagee said Thurs-

Currently, battalions and squadrons rotate through the combat zones on seven-month tours while commanders and staffs at regimental headquarters and above deploy for yearlong tours

The Army, on the other hand, rotates nearly all of its formations through one-year tours

Talking to families, said Hagee, "I've actually asked them, what do you prefer? What they came back with, without hesitation is, 'Seven months. Even though we know they may go back again, that's what we prefer.

- Jon R. Anderson

discussing with Special Operations Command chief Army Gen Ryan Brown the creation of a Marine Corps special operations headquarters under to Brown's command

Currently, the Marine Corps is the only service to not have a 'component command" under

"I have to be honest." said Hagee. "I don't like headquarters upon headquarters upon headquarters. But sometimes there's a nurpose for a headquarters, and that's what we're looking at right

Both initiatives come as the service looks to add 3,000 Marines to active rolls this year. If approved by Congress, that would bring the Corps' strength to 178,000 troops

The manpower infusion will allow the Marines also to create two new infantry battalions and add more Light Armored Vehicle Hagee said the first infantry

battalion will be based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., under the II Marine Expeditionary Force by the end of the year.

He said it was still unclear where the second infantry battalion would go.

The biggest hurdle in standing the new units up, he said, was not finding enough Marines to fill the battalions but having adequate fa-

cilities for them to live and work Funds earmarked in the Bush administration's \$80 billion supplemental funding request now being considered by Congress will build new barracks and sup-

port buildings, he said.

## DOD seeks leeway sending special ops into foreign nations

The Pentagon sees

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BY ANN SCOTT TYSON AND DANA PRIEST The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon is promoting a global counterterrorism plan that would allow special operations forces to enter a foreign country to conduct military operations without explicit concurrence from the U.S. ambassador there, administration officials familiar with the plan said.

The plan would weaken the long-standing "chief of mission" authority under which the U.S. ambassador, as the president's top representative in a foreign country, decides whether to grant

entry to U.S. government personnel based on political and diplomatic considerations

The special missions envisioned in the plan would largely be secret, known to only a handful officials from the foreign country, if

any. The change is included in a highly classi-fied "execute order" — part of a broad strategy developed since Sept. 11, 2001, to give the U.S. Spe-

cial Operations Command new flexibility to track down and destroy terrorist networks worldwide, the officials said.

'This is a military order on a global scale, something that hasn't existed since World War II," said a counterterrorism official with lengthy experience in special operations. He and other officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the proposal is classified.

The Pentagon sees the greater leeway as vital to enabling commando forces to launch operations quickly and stealthily against terrorist groups without often time-consuming interagen-cy debate, said administration officials familiar with the plan. In the Pentagon view, the campaign against terrorism is a war and re-quires similar freedom to prosecute as in Iraq, where the military chain of command coordinates closely with the U.S. Embassy but subject to traditional chief-of-mission authority.

The State Department and the CIA have fought the proposal, say ing it would be dangerous to dilute the authority of the U.S. ambassador and CIA station chief to oversee U.S. military and intelligence activities in other countries

Over the past two years, the State Department has repeatedly

blocked Penta gon efforts to send special operations forces into countries surreptitiously. current former administration officials

said. In stance, U.S. com-manders tried to dispatch Special Forces sol-diers into Pakistan without gaining ambassadorial approval but were rebuffed by the State Department, said two sources familiar with the event. The soldiers

eventually entered Pakistan with proper clearance but were ordered out again by the ambassador for what was described as reckless behavior.

In Pentagon policy circles, questions about chief-of-mission authority are viewed as part of a broad reassessment of how to organize the U.S. government optimally to fight terrorism.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has made it clear that she intends to protect the existing chief-of-mission authority

"Rice is resolute in holding to chief-of-mission authority over operations the way it exists now, for a very rational reason - you need someone who can coordinate," said a senior State Department official

#### Navy seeks relatives to claim WWII remains

MISSION, Texas - The U.S. Navy is trying to locate relatives of a South Texas crewman killed during World War II so that his remains can be buried with his family.

The remains of Seaman 2nd Class Dee Hall, a Mission native, were found about four years ago on the northwest face of Kiska Volcano in the Aleutian Islands of western Alaska. He was found with six other crewmen who were in a twin-engine Navy PBY-5A amphibious reconnaissance aircraft when the Japanese shot it down in June 1942 No one in Mission seems to remember Hall or know where his fami-

ly is, The Monitor of McAllen reported Sunday.

"It's of the utmost importance that we find them, because our mission here is to make sure that no stone is left unturned in resolving soon here is to make sure that no stone is left unturned in resolving these cases," said U.S. Navy Lt. Robert Sanchez, with the POW/MIA Activities Branch of the Navy Personnel Command in Tennessee.

The Navy POW/MIA Activities Branch can be contacted via phone 1-800-443-9298, fax 901-874-6654 and e-mail POW-MIA@Navy.mil.

From wire reports



#### IN THE WORLD

## **Bush, Putin agree to limit nuclear countries**



Presiden Rush, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands Thursday in Bratisla va. Slovakia, after a press conference where Bush said they were in unison on the importance of stopping suspected nuclear weapons programs in North Korea and Iran.

#### Leaders have sometimes-prickly exchange on Russian democracy

BY TOM RAUM The Associated Press

BRATISLAVA. Slovakia - President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed Thursday on new efforts to keep nuclear arms out of dangerous hands, but their sharp differences over Russian backsliding on democracy spilled into an open and sometimes-prickly exchange.

Seeking common ground with a former Cold War enemy that is now a key anti-terror partner, Bush said the two leaders stressed agreements over differ-

Standing side by side, their answers to questions about U.S. concerns that Putin is moving to solidify central power and quash dissent showed the sensitivity of the tonic

"It's very important that all nations understand the great values inherent in democracy - rule of law and protection of minorities, viable political debate," Bush said. "And when I brought that -Vladimir can speak for himself on this issue. All I can tell you is he said, 'Yes meant yes when we talked about values

"Russia has made its choice in favor of democracy," Putin said. "This is our final choice and there is no way back, there can be no return to what we used to

Putin added: "We are not going to make up, to invent any kind of special Russian democracy. We are going to commit to the fundamental principles that have been established in the world.

Despite those assurances, Putin had criticism for aspects of the U.S. system. And he suggested that Russians who oppose his actions can sway public opinion because they "are richer than those who

"We often do not pay attention to that."

He also compared his move to end direct popular election of regional governors to the American Electoral College process of electing presidents.

"It's not considered undemocratic, is it?" Putin said.

As the leaders met for two hours at a medieval castle overlooking the snow-cov ered capital and the Danube River, aides inked an agreement designed to counter conventional and nuclear terrorism, in part by restricting the availability of shoulder-fired missiles capable of bringing down aircraft.

We agreed to accelerate our work to protect nuclear weapons and materials both in our two nations and around the world." Bush said.

Bush said they were in unison on the importance of stopping suspected nucle ar weapons programs in North Korea and Iran. Putin did not address the topic. 'We agreed that Iran should not have a

nuclear weapon. I appreciate Vladimir's understanding on that," Bush said. "We agreed that North Korea should not have a nuclear weapon.' The visit to Slovakia was the final leg

on Bush's five-day tour to heal the transat-lantic rift caused by his March 2003 decision to invade Iraq without broad international support. He visited Belgium and Germany before coming here, and met with European leaders at NATO and European Union meetings in Brussels

#### Police claim arrests thwarted attacks

MANILA, Philippines - Police said Thursday they thwarted planned attacks on an airport, malls, a church and U.S. troops with the arrests of three members of an al-Qaida linked terror group who allegedly came to the Philippines to train Muslim militants to make bombs

The two Indonesians and a Malaysian - all alleged Jemaah Islamiyah members — were arrested in southern Zamboanga city in December along with a Filipino member of the Abu Savvaf Muslim extremist group with bomb-making manuals, bomb parts and money for attacks, officials said.

#### Londoners warned of terrorism risk LONDON - The head of London's Metropolitan Po-

lice force on Thursday warned about the risks of a terrorist attack in Britain with a royal wedding and a national election expected this year. Sir Ian Blair said it would be "unwise" to speculate

about whether he had specific information on the risk of an attack in the run-up to the general elections, widely expected in early May.

This year, Britain also will hold the presidency of

the G8 group of the world's wealthy nations and the presidency of the European Union.

#### Musharraf: No clue to bin Laden's lair

ISLAMARAD Pakistan - President Gen Pervez Musharraf said Thursday that Pakistani forces have destroyed al-Qaida-linked militants' sanctuaries and communication systems along the Afghan border, but still have no clue as to Osama bin Laden's where-

Musharraf told reporters that Pakistan — a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terrorism since the Sept. 11 2001, attacks on the United States - had captured 700 terror suspects in cities, and "eliminated" hundreds of them in tribal regions on the border.

#### Afghan elections face delay

KABUL, Afghanistan - Afghanistan's parliamenta ry elections face delay after the government failed to resolve issues including the voting system for its first post-Taliban legislature ahead of a key deadline, the United Nations said Thursday.

The vote was slated for the Afghan month of Saur, which ends on May 21. The exact election date must be declared at least 90 days in advance — meaning the deadline passed at the end of last week.

From wire reports

## Tracheotomy possible for ailing pope

BY VICTOR SIMPSON The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul II was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance for the second time in a month Thursday after suffering fever and congestion from a recurrence of the flu, the Vatican said.

The 84-year-old pontiff had the same symptoms of the breathing crisis that sent him to Gemelli Polyclinic on Feb. 1. a Vatican official said on condition of anonymity. On Wednesday, the pope made his longest public appear ance since being discharged from the clinic two weeks ago.

Doctors were consulting about the possibility of performing a tracheotomy on the pontiff.

ANSA, an Italian news agency, said doctors were considering the proce-dure in which a hole is made in the throat and a tube is inserted to assist breathing. The report did not cite

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope was taken to the Rome hospital for "necessary



lance at a.m., officials said. Vatican officials played down the seriousness of the hospitalization. saying a patient of

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10:45

the pope's age is always at risk from the flu. The pope also has Parkinson's disease and crippling knee and hip ailments.

But aides said the pope had a fever, congestion and had suffered a recurrence of breathing problems.

Medical experts who have not examined the pope but are familiar with eldtoms appeared to be consistent with pneumonia.

"It appears the pope is suffering from pneumonia, likely a bacterial pneumonia, a serious problem for a man of his age with Parkinson's," said Dr. Barbara Paris, chairwoman of geriatrics and vice-chairwoman of Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in New York.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported that the pope arrived conscious at Gemelli in a private ambulance. He was taken inside in a stretcher, the report said, and quoted people who saw him enter the hospital as saying his face looked "quite relaxed."

A medical health bulletin was to be issued Friday morning, and no details on the pope's health were expected to be released before that, the Vatican said. Thursday's hospitalization was the pope's eighth since his election in

#### Serb general surrenders to U.N. war crimes court

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro - A senior Bosnian Serb general indicted for his alleged role in a massacre of thousands of Muslims during the Bosnian war surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague on

Retired Gen. Milan Gvero, who was a close aide to war time Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, is a ton war crimes fugitive. He was taken to a cell at the U.N. ention unit in the Netherlands, the tribunal said

Gvero was accused of belonging to "a joint criminal enterprise" that included Mladic and former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, according to his indictment which was unsealed in The Hague on Thursday.

Gvero is charged with the forceful expulsion and murder of Muslims during an onslaught by Bosnian Serb forces on Srebrenica in 1995 when more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys were executed

#### Official: Syria will pull troops out of Lebanon

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria - Syria will withdraw troops from mountain and coastal areas in Lebanon in line with a 1989 agreement, Lebanon's defense minister said Thursday amid international pressure following the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Lebanese Defense Minister Abdul-Rahim Murad said the troops will be withdrawn to the eastern Bekaa Valley on the Syrian border, but he gave no timeframe.

Lebanese and Syrian military officers have begun meetings to define "the dates and the way" the withdrawal will take place. Murad said, adding that the pullback was in line with the Arab-brokered Taif agreement that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"The decision to withdraw has been taken." Murad said in television interviews.

"What remains is the exact timing."

# Victims of terrorism fight back

BY ANDREW SELSKY The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Some came in wheelchairs, one man got on an airplane for the first time since his son died on Sept. 11, and all were resolved to speak out against the terror attacks that had left them wounded or

missing loved ones. Hundreds came to Colombia's capital on Wednesday for the opening of the second International Congress on Victims of Terror-

Attendees came from the United States, Russia, Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

"I think that if we join together and say, 'We are still here. You may have taken our loved ones but you can't break our spirit,' that the terrorists will know they can't win," said Ken Thompson, whose mother was killed in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Tony Rose was in the Pentagon when one of the hijacked planes plowed into the huilding that September day

plowed into the building that September day.
The plane hit just 30 feet from where he was

standing, blowing him into a post and injuring him. A fireball incinerated troops near him. "We can allow ourselves to continue to be



Residents walk past the wreckage of a hotel blown up by rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, in Puerto Toledo, Colombia, on Monday.

victims, but we can rise one step higher and take charge and kick butt if we need to," Rose told the audience.

Azamat Tarkanovich, whose father was among more than 330 hostages killed in the takeover of a school in Beslan, Russia, last September by Chechen-led terrorists, said Russia is not doing enough to fight terror-

Tarkanovich noted that if terrorist attacks across the globe stop, a third congress might not have to be held.

But no one here held such illusions. Those whose loved ones have been killed in previous attacks said they could help relatives of future victims.

"The grieving process is the same regardless of race, religion or country," Thompson

aid. "We all feel the pain."

## Record number of nominations entered for Nobel Peace Prize

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — A record 199 individuals and groups were nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, and the secret list of nominees was believed to range from former Secretary of State Colin Powell to U2 singer Bono.

The final count of nominees, released Thursday, included 163 individuals and 36 organizations, said Geir Lundestad, secretary of the Norwegian awards com-

"This is an increase that shows the continued strong interest in the prize," said Lundestad. He said there was a broad geographical distribution of

Last year, Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai won the prize. She was among 194 nominees, the previous record.

The five-member awards committee keeps the nomination list secret for 50 years and gives no hints about who is on it. However, those nominating candi-

dates often announce their choice.

Powell was nominated for his efforts to end Sudan's 21-year civil war, a campaign to share the award between 1,000 women who work for peace. The award, including \$1.6 million, is always presented on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of its founder, Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel.

#### Brewer wins sweet victory

BERLIN — An east German brewer won his more than decade-long fight over the country's strict beer purity law Thursday, as judges decided he could continue to add sugar syrup to his brew and market it as beer.

Under Germany's five-century-old beer purity law, the Reinheitsgebot, brewers are forbidden from using anything other than malted grain, hops, yeast and water in their products.

But Helmut Fritsche has been committing what many in Germany's strict beer culture consider a mortal sin since taking over the Klosterbrauerei Neuzelle brewery in 1993 — adding sugar syrup to his dark beer just before capping the bottles. Until that

point, the beer is brewed according to the purity law.

#### Stem-cell research gets OK

MADRID, Spain — The Spanish government has given the green light for four research projects using human stem cells, joining only three other European countries that allow such research

The government issued a decree late last year allow the research, and on Wednesday the Health Ministry ap-

proved four specific projects.
The new regulations allow use of surplus embryos obtained through in-vitro fertilization and which have been frozen for more than five years. The parents' approval is needed.
From the Associated Press.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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#### IN THE STATES

## Wet winter soaks California's image

BY BEN FOX

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. - Looking to escape the gloomy Northwest, Denise Nienaber and her family flew to Southern California to visit Disneyland and enjoy some

sunny weather. They should have stayed home. The family arrived from Seat-tle amid a storm of historic proportions that eventually forced them to abandon the resort — despite a rare chance to wait just five minutes to see the Haunted

"We didn't even consider the weather, thinking it would be beautiful," Nienaber, 38, said. "We got totally soaked."

Nienaber, her husband and two daughters retreated to their motel to watch television and consider alternatives - something that has become necessary for tourists and locals alike as S ern California wades through the wettest winter in a century.

The rainfall has totaled about 34 inches in downtown Los Angeles since July 1, when California begins recording its yearly rain

It's been far more than Seattle or Portland in the same period. The wet weather has flooded freeways, sent houses skidding down hillsides and littered beach es with mountains of trash and tree limbs as storm runoff made its way to the ocean.

"It's so depressing," said Stephanie Soechtig, 28, who runs a television production company from her Santa Monica home and hasn't able to walk her Chihuahua, Fellini, because of the relent-"We've been less downpours. stuck inside all day. I feel like I'm going crazy.'

It's quite an adjustment in a place known for eternal sunshine.

People dodge puddles and scattered palm fronds in the streets, actually drive more slowly on the freeways, and even talk about the weather in a region that usually doesn't have any worth discuss-

"I just can't take this much longer. ... I just wish it would stop," said Judy Watkins, a chef in the (normally) arid resort town of Palm Desert.

The famed Southern California lifestyle has taken a big hit: Surf-ers have been advised to avoid runoff-contaminated waves; puddles spread across empty tennis courts; and golfers trudge

across muddy fairways. Even so, some residents are undeterred. Die-hard surfers were intent on riding storm-driven

"The water's brown, but you'll see a lot of surfers out there," said Matt Medina, a native San Diegan and manager of a surf shop. "It's a risk you take, and if you get sick, you get sick Golfer Jack Milliken, 47, a

human resources executive from Irvine, also pressed on. "It's definitely annoying you gotta play golf," he said. "Not playing is not an option."

For some the remedy is a visit to the tanning salon. "They come out and feel re-

freshed. It absolutely helps their attitude," said Chance Ledsorth, who runs a tanning salon in Woodland Hills that has seen an uptick in business.

At one resort in Palm Desert,

visitors tried denial instead. "People are in the pool and it's pouring," said Watkins who works at a hotel-resort. "They all lay out their towels like there's sun. They put on suntan lotion and it's 62 degrees and raining. I was just laughing. They're on va-cation in California, and they want to hang out."



In a lawsuit filed against Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. labor unions for some **DOD** civilian emplovees say the department is using security issues as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for

## **DOD** under fire from workers

Unions sue Rumsfeld over Defense's labor management system

BY JANE M. VON BERGEN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA - Ten labor unions, representing 300,000 civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense, filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, saving Rumsfeld's denartment has refused to negotiate changes in its labor management system in violation of the law.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, comes after months of protests by the unions over proposals for a new National Security Personnel System, which was authorized for development by Congress in November 2003. The unions say the system, which seeks flexibili-

ty in hiring and assigning workers for security reasons, is using threats to security as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for workers. The Department of Defense's Web site said the

new system is needed to replace outmoded human resource practices and better support the department's "critical national security mission."

Bradley Bunn, NSPS deputy program executive officer, would not comment directly on the suit. But in a statement he said that "the proposed NSPS regulations are the product of a collaborative effort across the Department that ... included a number of meetings with employee representatives involving extensive and fruitful discussions."

The lawsuit said the Defense Department had the right to establish changes in the department's labor relations systems, but by law, those changes would have to be done in collaboration with employ-

Instead, the suit said, "secret working groups" developed changes privately and did not provide unions with concrete proposals.

The lawsuit asks the judge to restrain the Defense Department from implementing any new labor systems until it provides drafts of proposals and enters into meaningful discussion.

Among the unions filing suit were the International Association of Firefighters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the American Federation of Government Employees. Besides Rumsfeld, the unions sued Dan G. Blair, acting director of the United States Office of Personnel Management.

#### Former congressman's conviction upheld

upheld Bill Janklow's conviction for a 2003 crash that killed a motorcyclist, rejecting the former congressman's argu-ment that there wasn't enough evidence for a guilty verdict Ruling unanimously, the South Dakota Supreme Court also found that Janklow had received a fair trial.

Janklow, 65, was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and reckless driving for killing 55-year-old motorcyclist Randy Scott in August 2003 on a rural highway near Trent. Authorities said Janklow sped through a stop sign. Janklow has said he was in a diabetic stupor and remembers nothing about the crash.

Janklow resigned from the House in January 2004. He completed a 100-day jail sentence but had hoped to use the appeal to clear the felony from his record.

#### Court rules sperm use was not theft

CHICAGO - An appeals court said a man can press a claim for emotional distress after learning a former lover had used his sperm to have a baby. But he can't claim theft, the ruling said, because the sperm were hers to keep.

The ruling Wednesday by the Illinois Appellate Court sends Dr. Richard O. Phillips' distress case back to trial

court.
Phillips accuses Dr. Sharon Irons of a "calculated, profound personal betrayal" after their affair six years ago, saying she secretly kept semen after they had oral sex, then used it to get pregnant.

He said he didn't find out about the child for nearly two years, when Irons filed a paternity lawsuit. DNA tests confirmed Phillips was the father, the court papers state. From The Associated Press

#### PIERRE, S.D. - The state's highest court on Thursday

BY KATHERINE SHRADER The Associated Press WASHINGTON

members of a terrorist organization are hiding in the United States - in plain sight.

The organization's former U.S. representative freely walks the streets and has a contract with Fox News as a foreign affairs analyst. Lawmakers write letters on the group's behalf. And former intelligence officials say the group maintains contacts in defense circles, al though the Pentagon denies it.

A cult to some and freedom fighters to others, the National Council of Resistance of Iran and its affiliate groups typify the gray areas in the often black-and-white world of the war on terror.

While they've been designated foreign terrorist organizations by the State Department, the groups' members still maneuver between the restrictions aimed at disabling them.

The former U.S. representative for the council, Alireza Jafarzadeh, says the U.S. government listed his

moderate elements within the Iranian government He's honing the Bush administration will lift the terrorist designation.

Former terrorists seek legitimacy

"I see increasingly more voices being raised against this designation in different parts within the administration and outside the adminsaid Jafarzadeh, who istration," notes that his group no longer exists in the United States but his free-speech rights allow him to discuss policies it once advocated

"The more serious people get about Iran, the more they are against the designation," he said.

The mission of the National Coun cil and its military wing — the Muja-hedin-e-Khalq or MEK — is to overthrow the Iranian regime an aim increasingly in line with the Bush administration. Yet the administration has stopped short of calling for regime change.

In last month's State of the Union speech. President Bush called Iran the world's primary state sponsor of terror." In Europe this week, he maintained the pressure, calling preparing to attack Iran "simply ri-" but quickly adding "having said that, all options are on the

Vet the MEK is far from a U.S. ally

As soon as the State Department created a list of terror organizations in 1997, it named the MEK, putting it in a club that includes al-Qaida and barring anyone in the United States from providing material sup-port. By 1999, the department designated the MEK's political arm, the National Council of Resistance, and related affiliates.

The State Department says the MEK groups were funded by Saddam Hussein, supported the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and are responsible for the deaths of Americans in the 1970s.

A State Department official said U.S. policy toward the MEK and its affiliates has not changed. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the group is still considered a threat because of its history of launching terrorist attacks.

Bush tapes The Associated Press WASHINGTON - An old

friend of President Bush who secretly recorded their private conversations and released them to the media said he has regrets and

is turning the tapes over to Bush. Doug Wead allowed journalists to hear and broadcast the tapes in

More

week as he promoted his new book on pres idential par-

states news on ents. But he Page 14 said he canceled plans

to be on "Hardball" on MSNBC Tuesday night to talk about his regrets because "it would only add to the distraction I have caused to the president's important and historic work."

"Contrary to a statement that I made to the New York Times. I have come to realize that personal relationships are more important than history," Wead wrote in a letter to the show's host. Chris Matthews, that MSNBC released to the public on Wednesday.

"I am asking my attorney to direct any future proceeds from the book to charity and to find the best way to vet these tapes and get them back to the president to whom they belong. History can wait.

On the tapes, recorded over the course of the two years before Bush became the Republican presidential nominee, Bush discusses strategy for his presidential run and appears to acknowledge past drug use. He says he will refuse to answer questions about using LSD, cocaine and marijuana because "I don't want any kid doing what I tried to do 30

The White House said Bush did not dispute the content of the tanes

The president's aides brushed off repeated questions about them during his tour of Europe this week by saving Bush considered them casual conversations with someone he thought was a



Hunter S. Thompson was out there to the end — his final wishes include having his ashes blasted out of a non. Fireworks impresario Marc Williams, right, and employee Thomas Majors, posing with fireworks, want the job. Williams says he'd shoot the ashes 800 feet into the sky, then have a window-rattling second blast scatter them amid a massive bloom of color. Major would construct the ash container.

## **Going gonzo in last request**

#### Thompson's ashes might be shot out of a cannon

The Associated Press

DENVER - Hunter S. Thompson, the "gonzo journalist" with a penchant for drugs, guns and flame-thrower prose, might have one more salvo in store for everyone: Friends and relatives want to blast his ashes out of a cannon, just as he wished.

'If that's what he wanted, we'll see if we can pull it off," said historian Douglas Brinkley, a friend of Thompson's and now the family's spok

Thompson, who shot himself to death at his Aspen-area home Sunday at 67, said several times he wanted an artillery send-off for his remains.

"There's no question, I'm sure that's what he would want," said Mike Cleverly, a longtime friend and neighbor. "Hunter truly loved that kind of

Colorado fireworks impresario Marc Williams said it's doable

"Oh, sweet, I'd love to, I would so love to," said Williams, 44, owner of Night Musick Inc. in suburban Denver and a fan of Thompson's writing.

Thompson's wife, Anita, and son, Juan, are looking into the cannon scenario, said Brinkley, who has edited some of Thompson's work.

In comments published Thursday, members of Thompson's family said the writer discussed committing suicide at least 10 years before he took his

"I've known for many, many years that this is how Hunter would go," Juan Thompson told the Rocky Mountain News in Thursday's editions. "It was just a question of when. This was a big surprise and I didn't expect it to be now, but the

neans was exactly as we expected."

Brinkley also said Thompson did not take his life 'in a moment of haste or anger or despondency" but probably planned his suicide well in advance because of declining health. The author of books including "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" was in pain from a host of problems that included a broken leg and a hip replacement.

"I think he made a conscious decision that he had an incredible run of 67 years, lived the way he wanted to, and wasn't going to suffer the indignities of old age," Brinkley said. "He was not going to let anybody dictate how he was going to die."

Thompson had spent an intimate weekend with his son, daughter-in-law and young grandson, the spokesman said.

"He was trying to really bond and be close to the family" before his suicide, Brinkley said. "This was not just an act of irrationality. It was a very

would probably blast the ashes from a 12-inch di-ameter mortar 800 feet into the sky. Then a second, window-rattling blast would scatter them amid a blossom of color 600 feet across.

pre-planned act." a telephone interview. the Thompson job were his, Williams said, he The baby's face was bitten and

#### Coroner: Dogs, baby swings don't mix

PAGE 11

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - Rocking your baby to sleep in a mechanical swing may trigger a deadly attack on the child by the family dog, a coroner warns.

At least two such deaths have been documented in Maryland over a four-year period, Dr. Albert Y. Chu of the state's medical examiner's office said Wednesday at a meeting in New Orleans of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

The back-and-forth motion may activate the dog's instinct to chase prey, he said

"Think about dogs chasing cars or tennis balls. They can't control their behavior - they just go," he

In 2003, a 2-week-old boy was dragged from his swing and killed by the family's pit bull in Baltimore after the baby's mother left him to answer the front door. In Edgemere, Md., in 1999, a 3-month-old boy was mauled to death as his parents slept in another room.

An Associated Press check of online news archives found at least one more death - that of an 18-day-old girl in Tampa, Fla., in 2000 after her mother left the room to warm a bottle for her and at least two nonfatal attacks around the country in the past few years.

In one of those cases, in Summerville, S.C., in 2003, the dog lunged for the baby and bit her in front of the child's mother. In 2000, Sabrina Williamson of

Peru, Ind., had gone to the store while her husband napped in another room, not far from 9-week-old Alex. She walked back in and found her husband wrestling their pit bull off the baby. They had had the dog eight years, since Alex's brother was 4.

"I think it could be a key factor. Our dog had never been mean towards a child before," she said in

bloody, and his collarbone was broken and protruding from his shoulder, police said.

#### More blacks. Latinos iailed

AUSTIN - More than 70 percent of inmates in Texas prisons are black or Latino, nearly doubling their percentage of the general population, according to a report released Thursday.

The report by the Washington, D.Cbased Justice Policy Institute found that blacks are sent to prison at a rate five times higher than whites in Texas. Latinos were incarcerated at twice the rate of whites, the report said.

Gary Bledsoe, state director of the Texas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said spending more money on education and health care would help people avoid the crimes that send them to prison.

State and House and Senate leaders are

considering expanding probation and drug treatment programs this legislative session as a way to curb the state's rising prison

#### Father stabs kids, kills self

COLUMBUS, Ga. - A father fatally stabbed his two young children and seriously wounded three others with a hunting knife before committing suicide by slitting his own throat, police said.

The father, Clarence Lacey Moore, 24,

and the five children were found in a home in south Columbus after Wednesday's attack, police said.

Beverly Moore, the mother of all five children, was not injured, said police Maj. Russell Traino. It was not immediately clear whether the three wounded children were related to Clarence Moore.

#### Pa. trooper fatally shoots self

LANCASTER, Pa. - A veteran state trooper fatally shot himself Wednesday. four days after authorities searched his home for items "related to child pornography," a state police official said

Trooper Arthur J. Mizzoni, 49, was found dead in his pickup truck in the parking lot outside his barracks in Ephrata, about 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Clay Township Police searched Mizzoni's home Saturday and seized "numerous items," said state police Capt. Steven McDaniel, the troop commander. They included computer equipment and supplies, pornographic magazines, advertisements and newspaper clippings with pictures of children, and Polaroid photos of children, according to court papers.

#### **Hunter fined \$18M for fire**

EDDING, Calif. - A lost hunter who started a forest fire in northern California while trying to keep warm was ordered to pay \$18.2 million restitution. The fire in the Mendocino National Forest burned 6,058 acres and cost \$33 million to suppress, authorities said. The restitution covers the U.S. Forest Service's cost of fighting the fire and restoring the burned area, prosecutors said.

Jason Hoskey, 26, of Willows, lit a camp-fire when he got lost hunting on Sept. 27, 2003. The fire spread after he fell asleep. Flames had been hanned in the area he-

cause of extreme fire danger. Prosecutors said Hoskey also violated the ban by smoking several cigarettes.

From wire reports

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#### General: Bush visit memorable

On Wednesday, U.S. European Command was visited by the commander in chief, and the 1st Armored Division was most fortunate to be the hosting community.

Iron soldiers and their families along with our partner units living and serving in the Wiesbaden community along with many Marines, airmen and sailors — were honored to participate in a memorable visit from President Bush and first lady Laura Bush. The day was truly exciting for all, and one we will never forget.

The president asked me to relay to all servicemembers, civilian employees and their families serving throughout the European Command that, if it were possible, he would have visited every one of you. I would have liked nothing more than to have opened the event at Wiesbaden Army Airfield to all. Unfortunately, because of facility space and a very busy schedule, it was not possible on this trin

Nevertheless. I can't express how honored I was that so many soldiers and other members of the community got the chance to hear firsthand from our commander in chief how proud and appreciative he is of our service to the United States of America and the significant role we play in the global war on terror.

The success of the visit was the direct result of many hours of teamwork by the soldiers, civilians and family members in the Wieshaden military community. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each one of you for your dedication and professionalism.

God bless you and God bless America Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey Commander, 1st Armored Division Wiesbaden, Germany

#### Living in 'Hainerberg Landfill'

I find it shameful that it takes the first lady of the United States to clean up my neighborhood.

I live in the Hainerberg Landfill Housing Area in the 221st Base Support Battalion's Wiesbaden community. My family has lived in filth for sixth months and has suffered through the embarrassment of bringing friends and family through litter-lined streets to visit our apartment.

I have seen a whole variety of disgusting trash along our sidewalks, such as bloody tampons; brown, dirty diapers; maggot-infested, spoiled food; and countless bottles and wrappers.

Recently, the housing chain of concern has placed fevered effort into making the area look better. Why haven't we seen such interest in the past six months?

I want to encourage everyone living in Hainerberg housing to keep our community looking like a nice place to live. Here's my suggestions to help:

■ Put your garbage or recycling in a

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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container; throwing a bag on the ground, on top of a container, or off of your balcony is a sure way to have litter strewn everywhere

■ Put your trash cans away; cans left out collect litter and get knocked over.

■ Teach your children how to be good neighbors. A great majority of the trash comes from the route that students walk to and from lunch.

■ To the leaders of the 221st BSB: Please enforce the standards you have crafted. Please continue to take as much interest and put forth as much effort toward our neighborhood as you have in the past week.

Stop changing the garbage and recycling pick-up dates every month, and notify us when they do change.

When the first lady of the Barta family, my daughter's great-grandmother, comes to visit in the spring, I hope our neighborhood looks as good as it does now

Capt. Jeff Barta Wiesbaden, Germany

#### Wife, mom of 11, is his hero

Stripes recently published an article about Johnnie Chennault, a naval reservist with 11 children who is going to Iraq for seven or eight months ("Missing the little things," Feb. 14, Mideast edition).

I would like to tell readers about my hero. My wife, Patricia, has taken care of our 11 children (all ours) for the past 14 months while I have been in Iraq.

She has supported me and our cause wholeheartedly, while giving each of our children the time and attention I could not in my absence. She has braved broken cars, washers and refrigerators. She has dealt with our family's finances. She has helped the little ones understand why Daddy can't be there for them when they are sad or scared, because he's helping the people in Iraq.

She hasn't complained or felt her sacrifice and contribution were any greater than anyone else's.

I get to wear a combat patch for the rest of my career, but my wife is the true hero. I just thought readers might like to

> Mai David Miller Camp Ārifjan, Kuwait

#### Armor article misleading

As I read the article "Protecting U.S. troops, convoys with armor" in the Valentine's Day issue, I was surprised at how skewed the perception of vehicle armoring is.

The article claims that only 1 out of 4 vehicles has "hillbilly armor." I suppose this is possible if you count Abrams and Bradleys, but that is deceiving. The question is: Of the vehicles that were originally unarmored, how many now have factory-manufactured armor kits and how many are "hillbilly" style?

As a convoy commander in the Sunni Triangle for a year now, I saw that maybe 1 out of 4 vehicles had factory-manufactured add-on armor, leaving three-quarters with "hillbilly armor." Of my transportation company's 75 vehicles, only our 11 Humvees had factory kits: that is 85 percent "hillbilly." Don't get me wrong, that's better than

when we got here, but a long way from where the article claims. The article also discusses how armor is

removed in Kuwait to be reused. In our out-processing, only our door panels were salvageable, the rest was scrap. Why not leave the trucks here? We just got them right, after a year of trying.

The underlying issue is this: Army leadership has failed to learn. Since World War II, right through Vietnam, soldiers have used "hillbilly armor." There are even Army field manuals that address how to do it.

Yet, for all of this, we never realize that there is a requirement for some level of protection on all pieces of military equipment. It isn't too hard to imagine that if you go to war in a vehicle, someone might try to blow it up or shoot you.

Yes, we are buying armor kits now, but every vehicle needs to be designed with this in mind. Will this generation of Army leadership really learn from this experience and change things?

Capt. T.L. Sharratt Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq

#### What a love story

Thanks for telling the story in the Feb. 17 Mideast edition about Joey and Jayme Bozik's love story ("Triple amputee copes with life after war"; Feb. 18, Eu-rope edition). What an example of strength on his part, commitment on her part, and their love for each other for all of us to remember as we love our wives It truly blessed my heart and encouraged me as I read the story. With so much negative news, it was a great story and I hope they are able to read this letter. Steve Shenk

Baghdad

#### **Doonesbury Flashbacks**







#### OPINION

## Sharon goes against grain for greater good

BY DEREK CHARLES CATSAM History News Service

sraeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the arch-conservative old warrior from the Likud Party, has undertaken something that no one would have thought possible: He has been engaging in serious negotiations with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

It was Sharon's visit to the al-Agas mosque as opposition leader in September 2000 that precipitated the Palestinian declaration of intifiada that has raged for more than four years. That Sharon is now at the center of not only quelling that storm but Palestinian Authority seems like the ultimate historical irony. But we shouldn't be surprised. History provides some precedent for this apparent transformation.

Sharon is working toward complete Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip, including the removal of Israeli settlers. For most observers of the crisis in the Middle East. Sharon would have been the last

There's still a long way

to go, but few would

have predicted Sharon

to make it even this far.

person they expected to challenge the settlers, make nice with the Palestinian Authority and take serious steps toward a long-term peace that would eventually result in a Pales-

tinian state. There's still a long way to go, but few would have predicted Sharon to make it even this far

Two historical comparisons spring to mind when one considers the path that Sharon unexpectedly walks today: The first is President Nison's trip to China in 1972. The other's South African President F.W. de Klerk's freeing of Nelson Mandela and his subsequent negotiations leading to the end of apartheid in the early 1990s. The two men engaged in historical transformations at key moments, and they did so in ways that their constituencies never would have envisioned when they rose to office. Sharon seems to be following their exam-

Nom, de Klerk and Sharon — came from Nixon, de Klerk and Sharon — came from the conservative wings of their countries most prominent conservative parties. Their opponents inevitably painted them as reactionaries. Nixon was the Cold War hatchet man who had enabled the worst excesses of McCarthysim. De Klerk came from a National Party apparatus that had arched down on anti-sparthed resistance can be considered to the control of the was perceived as being to the right of his predecessor, PW. Boths. Sharon represented the Israeli settler community better than any politicain in recent memory.

Yet despite their reputations, they engaged in liberal change that other leaders could not have accomplished. It's almost a cliché that "only Nixon could have gone to China." What this means is that had a liberal Democrat, say George McGovern, announced that he intended to do so, his oppo-

nents would have painted him as being soft on communism and worse. Because Nixon's anti-communist credentials were impeccable, he

cen this far. could engage with the Chinese (and pursue the subsequent detente with the Soviets) without such fears. His record as an ardent Cold Warrior prevented anyone's immugning his motives.

Similarly, only a staunch member of South Africa's National Party, the party that had implemented and perfected apartheid, could have engaged with Nelson Mandela and lifted the ban on the African National Congress and other opposition organizations. De Klerk's standing as leader of a right-wing establishment was essential to



effecting the transition from apartheid to nonracial democracy. The Nationalists would have swallowed up a more moder-

All of which brings us back to Ariel Sharon. We can see hints of Nixon and de Klerk in the wily Likud prime minister. Sharon came from his party's conservative wing, much as did de Klerk. He had a history of active support for Israel's settler communities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

In the eyes not only of many liberal Israelis, but of the rest of the world, Sharon was retrograde, even less likely to withdraw setters from Gaza, negotiate with the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization for a two-state solution and ally with the Labor Party in the face of conservative Likud opposition than Nixon was to travel to China or de Klerk was to seek rapprochement with Mandela. Perhaps, then, history can teach us a lesson as we watch events unfold in the Middle East. Sometimes, having earned political capital within their own factions, savvy politicians are capable of using that capital to create space to operate in ways both unanticipated and seemingly against the grain.

Many are suspicious of Sharon because he was, in their minds, the last person likely to bring about peace and promote a two-state solution in the lands between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. It may end up being less ironic than peo-

ple think if he instead becomes the only man capable of doing so. Given the precedents of Nixon and de Klerk, we have here not an irony but the grasping of a historic opportunity.

Derek Charles Catsam is an assistant professor of history at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa.

## Congress must help clear the fog on interrogations

BY LINDSEY GRAHAM AND JANE HARMAN

hortly after Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush concluded that al-Quida and other terrorist organizations would not be entitled to protections provided by the Geneva Conventions. At the same time, however, he rightly emphasized that the policy of our government would be humane treatment for all those who fall into U.S. hands.

We strongly believe it is imperative to have a coherent, flexible and aggressive set of interrogation procedures, allowing our nation to acquire timely and valuable intelligence. This must be done, however, without forfeiting the moral authority that is inherent to our nation and essential to winning the global war on terrorism.

Unfortunately, some made early efforts to limit the definition of torture to acts "causing pain that is consistent with death or organ failure." This, in combination with the inconsistent interpretation of other pertinent laws, started us off on the wrong track. It has also left our military personnel subject to prosecution and reprimand from their respective branches of service.

It is clear to us that the events at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, as well as the allegations of abuse at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, must be thoroughly addressed, and reforms enacted. Any attempt to "play cute" with international, domestic or military laws inevitably puts our own troops at risk, leaving our armed ser-

vices personnel vulnerable to the same type of treatment if captured. It has been proved that torture or other inhuman conduct as a technique of information-gathering is flawed and often produces unreliable information.

We believe it's time for a comprehensive review of our interrogation techniques. In addition, we must provide better legal guidance to those responsible for interrogations, possibly through the enactment of a new federal law. We envision such a law as requiring a collaborative effort between Congress and the departments of Defense and distice in establishing procedures for the use of coercive interrogation techniques. This would help to ensure that we gather needed information without giving America a black eye.

Interrogations constitute a vital tool in eliciting intelligence in the war on terrorism. Unfortunately, the gaps in our laws have left our interrogators without clear guidelines on how to elicit that vital intelligence.

At the end of the day, this war will not be won by military action alone. The recent democratic elections in Iraq, combined with the successful elections in Afghanistan, signal historic changes in the region. We must empower moderate forces that are willing to fight the extremists. Behavior that appears to undermine the rule of law will undermine these efforts.

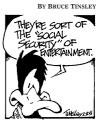
The fog of war is thick enough. It's time for Congress to acknowledge there is also a fog of law — and consider a legal framework for interrogation procedures.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is a member of the Senate Armed Services and Judiciary committees and a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Rep. Jane Harman of California is the ranking Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

#### Mallard Fillmore







## **Snow is nature's sound insulator**

BY DAWN FALLIK Knight Ridder/Tribune

PHILADELPHIA - Freshly fallen snow is really nature's white noise machine.

That's right. It really is quiet after a snowfall, and not just because everyone is hiding indoors Scientists have discovered that in the first hours after a snowfall the flakes have a rare acoustic

quality to absorb sound waves Sometimes it lasts for just a few hours - as in a slushy snowfall.

Other times, when it's covered by freezing rain, it heads to the opposite end of the acoustical spectrum and echoes like concrete.

Researchers worldwide, particularly where they get lots of winter weather, say they study the sound of snow in hopes of figuring out everything from avalanche triggers to noise insula-

"After a fresh snowfall, it's very quiet and then once it's blown by wind and sunshine, it hardens and loses its effectiveness," said Gilles Daigle, who researches sound acoustics for the National Research Council, a governmental research agency in Ottawa. Canada.

The reason snow works so well as a sound insulator is because all the crystals are shaped differently. So when they fall on each other, they stack like differently shaped blocks, leaving lots of air hetween the flakes. The air works



Jay Bailey drives a sleigh Monday across the fields at Fair Winds Farm in Brattleboro, Vt., while giving a ride in freshly fallen snow. Recently, scientists have found that fresh snow has natural sound-muffling properties.

like the holes in a sponge, trap-ping sound waves and dampening vibrations.

"The grains themselves aren't very spherical, so when it first falls, it's very fluffy," said Dou-glas Durian, who studies the physics of granular materials at the University of Pennsylvania.

All of which is more easily done with fallen snow. Falling snow. however, is much harder to

Snowflakes themselves are tiny

hard crystals and may actually scatter sound more than absorb it. But they're hard to study they don't stay still and aren't predictable, say scientists.

It may seem like the study of snow acoustics may be silly, when it just lasts for a day or so. But to Jerome Johnson, it was a matter of saving lives.

Johnson works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Region Research and Engineering Lab in Fairbanks, Alaska, A

few years ago, he studied snow acoustics for Washington State.

"The goal was to develop ways to trigger avalanches artificially as a safety mechanism without using traditional means, such as artillery rounds," he said.

Most scientists say there needs to be more studies about snow -

if only it weren't so hard to study. "The thing with snow is that it's so variable," said Daigle, in Cana-da. "It changes hour by hour and it's quite challenging to keep up."

#### Confederate remains to be reburied in the South

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. - The remains of 21 Confederate soldiers that were recovered from beneath the stands of a military college's football stadium will be reburied next month.

Hundreds of soldiers and civilians were buried during the Civil War on the land where The Citadel's stadium now stands

The city meant to allow the graves to be moved in 1948, when the stadium was built, but because of a clerical error the city's letter only allowed the headstones to be moved.

Civil War resenactors began looking for the graves of lost Confederates in the 1990s. The remains of about 40 Civil War soldiers have been recovered and reburied.

The latest group of remains was found last June. The bodies were badly deteriorated because they were buried near a river and none have been iden-

Burial in a cemetery for the 21 soldiers is set for March 5.

The recovered remains of about 350 civilians remain in storage until the college decides where they should be re-

#### Big chair frees man from bed

BY MATT CHITTUM The Roanoke Times

ROANOKE, Va. - Quetmon Powell weighs about 700 pounds. He rarely leaves his apartment. It's an existence he compares to being in jail.

As many an inmate can attest simple pleasures for the rest of the world become life-sustaining luxuries for the confined

That's why Powell, 31, says words can't express his appreciation for a gift delivered to him Tuesday evening - a gift that will give him liberty from his bed. let him take in fresh air on his front porch, and bring him closer to his wife and stepchildren. It was a chair.

"It's a man's chair," said Philip House, the man who built it, as he put it together for Powell.

Though he'd never built a piece of furniture in his life. House designed and built this piece from 6-by-6 inch cherry and cedar after learning that the only piece of furniture in Powell's house suitable to hold him was a special bariatric bed. House, a certified occupational therapy assistant who worked with Powell at a rehabilitation center last spring, was disturbed that Powell's family often had to come to his bedroom to see



Philip House, left, says a prayer for Quetmon Powell, right, with Powell's wife Niesha Powell, center, for Quetmon's health Tuesday after House presented Quetmon with a hand-built chair for his living room in Roanoke, Va. Powell weighs about 700 pounds.

him, leaving him isolated in his own home.

About one in 50 adult Americans suffers from morbid obesity. though most cases are not as extreme as Powell's. Morbid obesity, in which a person weighs 100 pounds more than their ideal weight, increased twice as fast as regular obesity in the past 15 years, recent studies show. A study by a RAND Corp. researcher in 2003 found that morbid obesity increased fourfold from 1986

Powell's "lifestyle was pretty much lay in bed, get up and walk to the front door, get up and walk to the back door," House said.

"I decided I'd pray about it, because I thought there might be some thing I might be able to do."

Right away, he began to get ideas about what the chair would look like

Colleagues at the rehabilitation center helped pay for the lumber, and local mills agreed to cut and shape it. On Tuesday, he showed Powell a list of 21 people, companies and churches that all deserved thanks.

Powell was always overweight, "but it never really hindered me in any way.

When he injured his knee and was hospitalized in the spring, he weighed 868 pounds. The last time he was weighed, he was down to 719. If he gets down to 600, doctors will allow him to

have gastric bypass surgery. Until then, he cannot work, be-cause he is considered disabled.

## Rowling not amused with Army's parody

BY PATRICK T. REARDON Chicago Tribune

Is that bespectacled boy who's pouring a sleeping potion into a large jar Harry Potter? And, next to him, is that Ron Weasley with some truth potion? And Hermione Granger with

"Love Potion No. 9"? Well, no. That's the point. This is the May

2004 issue of "PS The Preventive Maintenance Monthly" comic book,

54-year-old publication aimed at passing along how-to tins to U.S. soldiers for taking care of everything

from giant aircraft to their person-It's a parody of J.K. Rowling's

literary juggernaut about an orphan boy with a scar on his forehead and an aptitude for magic. It was written and produced all in good fun, Army officials say, but that's not how Rowling and Warner Bros., which is producing the series of movies from her books, are taking it.

They're taking it as a possible copyright infringement, and last week a Warner lawver began discussions of the question with Army officials. "Our lawyers say the illustra-

tions [of the Harry Potter-ish characters] are permissible under the U.S. copyright law as parody," says Lt. Col. Virginia Ezell, a spokes-

woman for the Army Materiel Command in Fort Belvoir, Va., which publishes

The May 2004 issue of PS drew

news attention earlier month, particularly from the United Kingdom, after its existence became known widely

through a Feb. 3 posting on one of the Harry Pot-Internet fan

www.hpana.comcq. PS, which is produced out of

Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, Ala., is a monthly comic with a circula-tion of 88,000. The Army has been using the colorful format for more than half a century, Ezell says, "to get the soldiers to pick it up. It needs some way to attract

"We're not trying to make money out of this," Ezell says. "We're trying to help soldiers. It's a way to keep them safe.





#### **Pentagon Car Sales**

#### ...GERMANY

#### KAISERSLAUTERN

Kaiserstrasse 1 67661 Kaiserslautern Tel: 0631 351 900

#### HEIDELBERG

Hebelstrasse 3 69115 Heidelberg Tel: 06221 144 911

#### MANNHEIM

Waldeckweg 3 68309 Mannheim Tel: 0621 724 6901

#### WIESBADEN / MAINZ

Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 14 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel: 06134 567 800

#### ...ITALY

#### **AVIANO**

Via Pordenone 48D Aviano (PN) 33081 Tel- 0434 676 613/4

#### **VICENZA**

Viale Della Pace 254B Vicenza (VI) 36100 Tel: 0444 305 888

#### NAPLES

Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/f 80125 Naples Tel: 081 762 3868

#### SIGONELLA

c/o Hotel Sigonella Inn Suite 101/102 opposite NAS 1 95040 Motta S. Anastasia (CT) Tel- 095 713 0410

#### LA MADDALENA

Piazza Bambin Gesu' 11 07024 La Maddalena (SS) Tel: 0789 723 026

#### ...SPAIN

Plaza Del Triunfo 6 11520 Rota (Cadiz) Tel: 956 841 678



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#### Man gunned down

CA SACRAMENTO — A 23-year-old man was gunned down in broad day-light while sitting in his car at a busy intersection Sunday in what a sheriff's spokesman called an "exe cution "

Sacramento County sheriff's investigators are looking for possible links to several recent gang-related

shootings, Sgt. R.L. Davis said. Authorities said two men got out of a silver 1997 Toyota Camry, went around a bus filled with 16 children from a church and fired up to 18 rounds into Pra Vang's

Witnesses told authorities the assailants, described as Asian men wearing red and black clothing, fled in the Toyota, which was carry

ing two other passengers. Vang died at the scene, Davis said. No one else was injured, and no other vehicle was hit, Davis

#### Coffee Pot dilemma

PA BEDFORD — The owners of a coffeepot-shaped luncheonette are hoping someone perks up and figures out a new use for the historic structure.

About a 18 months ago, a former owner donated the 1927-era Koontz Coffee Pot to the Bedford County Fair Board. The board moved the notable building to the front entrance of its fairgrounds and spent thousands of dollars to renovate it

But now, the board isn't sure

what to do with it.
"We're just letting it be known that if people have suggestions, we're open to them," said board president John Holbert.

Until 2003, the Coffee Pot sat on U.S. Route 30 — one of America's first highways, also known as the Lincoln Highway. Bert Koontz, a local businessman, built the structure as a novelty luncheonette designed to draw customers to the service station next door.

Some have suggested using it for a hot dog stand, a retail shop or an art gallery.

Olga Herbert, the director of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, thinks the Coffee Pot would be a great place to sell coffee cups and coffee beans

#### Fleet converting fuel

TN CHATTANOOGA—All diesel vehicles in the city-owned fleet will begin using biodiesel next week in an effort to improve air quality. Regular diesel fuel is mixed with animal fats and vegetable oils to produce biodiesel. State officials already agreed to re duce interstate highway speed limits in Hamilton County to lessen pollutants from diesel engines

#### Pella opening new plant

MACOMB — Pella Corp., an Iowa-based window and door maker, said it will build a manufacturing plant in Macomb, creating 480 jobs. Up to \$7 million in state grants and tax incentives heln launch 275,000-square-foot factory that's scheduled to open in March 2006. Pella will produce a new line of historic-looking windows at the plant.

#### Student guilty of murder

TX EDINBURG — A 17-year-old has pleaded guilty to stabbing to death a fellow



student as they waited for their parents to pick them up from an after-hours school event last

March Jason C. Gonzalez pleaded guilty Tuesday to stabbing 15-year-old Li anna Nicole Olmeda 15 times out side Pharr-San Juan-Alamo North High School after a drama competition on March 29, 2004.

Gonzalez was to stand trial for Olmeda's death, but because of his guilty plea, a jury will determine Gonzalez's punishment. The jury will hear testimony from police officers, teachers, witnesses and family members.

Gonzalez is being tried as a minor because he was 16 at the

time of the murder. Prosecuting Assistant District Attorney Juan Villescas asked jurors to give Gonzalez the maximum of 40 years in prison.

Defense attorney Eddy Trevino told jurors Gonzalez suffered mental problems since age 12, including attention deficit hyperactive disorder and depression. After the slaying, Gonzalez was diagnosed with Aspergers syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism.

#### Shellfish harvest ban on

VA GLOUCESTER — A state ban on shellfish harvesting from six tributaries of the Severn River was set to begin Tuesday, following the discovery of high levels of bacteria from human or animal

The state ordered the ban last



Back to best friends Spc. Amy Egbert of Grand Forks. N.D., and the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, is reunited with her dog, Angel, at Hector International Airport in Fargo, N.D. Egbert and her husband, Sgt. Dallas Egbert, both returned to North Dakota after serving in Iraq.

month for Whitaker, Free School and Sterling creeks, as well as their tributaries on the Severn's northwest branch. On the Severn's southwest branch, Wil-letts Creek, Rowes Creek Holly Bush Creek and their tributaries were also made off-limits to shellfish harvesting.

Recent water samples from those tributaries showed excessive levels of coliform, and eating shellfish from the waterways could lead to illness, state officials said.

Commercial fishermen don't work on those tributaries. But Tim Fearington, field director of the Virginia Division of Shellfish Sanitation's Norfolk office, said homeowners on the affected waterways had been advised not to harvest and eat shellfish.

Some people might have piers or docks in the creeks and use traps to grow oysters, he said.

The condemnations follow a Division of Shellfish Sanitation survey of 906 properties in the Severn watershed from February 2004 to April 2005 that identified 82 potential sources of pollutants.

The sources include livestock with direct access to creeks and ditches, homeowners with septic systems leaking effluent and washing machines that drain directly onto the ground or into ditches.

#### Bill would ban trap

RI PROVIDENCE — Legislation has been introduced that would ban a type of animal trap in Rhode Island

Currently, the leghold, steel-jawed trap can be used in the steel-jawed trap can be used in the state, with a permit from the state Department of Environmental Management. The animal rights group Defenders of Animals wants to ban the traps, saying they maim pets and other animals, and could be dangerous to small children.

Similar traps have been banned in 90 countries, according to the

The bill was introduced by Rep. Joseph Trillo, of Warwick, on De-fenders of Animals' behalf.

#### No BO in the library!

CA SANTA BARBARA — County officials say people with body odor aren't welcome as library users. That means people who smell bad, including many homeless, can be denied service. Library Director Brian Reynolds said librarians will use their discre-

#### Bill benefits vets

CHEYENNE — Gov. Dave Freudenthal signed a bill that will make it easier for veterans to obtain an \$800 break on their property taxes. The previous law contained a list of wars and had to be updated after each conflict involving the U.S. military. The new law streamlines the nrocess so that veterans are automatically eligible

#### Officials using blogs

MINNEAPOLIS — Some elected and appointed officials are using Web logs to keep their constituents in the loop. The bloggers' topics range from redevelonment efforts to where a city manager was going on a winter getaway. Scott Neal, Eden Prairie city manager, says it's a way to reduce the disconnect between local government and its citizens.



Ten-vear-old Allie Billiot plays on a tire Out for a swing swing in Bayou Black, La.



Nick Sainato, of Morris Township. Big man in the vard N.J., straightens out the nose on a large snowman. Sainato and three friends built the 15-foot-plus snowman on Sainato's front yard.



Careful, they'll all want some

Alvin Spanske, 10, feeds a bird on Detroit's Belle Isle during a visit to the park with his grandparents.



While walking his two miniature sch Happy schnauzer zers along the north shore of Flathe Lake, Dave Handy watches one of the canines playfully leap into the air in



Wavne County, Ind., sheriff's deputies investigate a fatal crash between a car and train near Hagerstown. The driver of the car. according to evewitness reports. went around the crossing gates and

was pushed several hundred feet.

Bad collision



Andrew Orbin leads bigger farm tractors down old U.S. 231 on Small, but still in front their way to McCutcheon High School near Lafavette. Ind. The students from McCutcheon drove their tractors to the school for National FFA Week.

#### Museum may get boost

CHARLESTON SC CHARLESTON -long-delayed black history museum could get a much-needed

boost this week if the City Council approves spending \$250,000 to launch a national fund-raising camnaign. The museum was first suggested by Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. five years ago. The original \$37 million price tag has increased to an estimated \$50 million, organizers say.

#### Court cashes in

PHILADELPHIA PA PHILADELA III.

3-year-old program that allows police to impound the cars of traffic scofflaws has helped turn a once financially strapped court into a cash cow.

President Judge Francis E. Kelly of the Philadelphia Traffic Court said not enough money was coming in to cover the court's expenses in 1990, with \$56 million owed and more than 174,000 arrest warrants unserved.

Last year, the court collected \$23.1 million, nearly five times its \$4.8 million budget. Court officials expect to collect even more money

this year. Law enforcement efforts were

beefed up, but authorities credit 2002's Live Stop program for much of the turnaround. Under the program, police are allowed to seize cars stopped for traffic violations if the vehicle is unregistered or uninsured, or if the driver is not properly licensed. The nmgram has resulted in the

impounding of 75,000 vehicles. Last year, 27,000 vehicles were

seized and nearly 15,000 released after the owners settled their outstanding tickets About 45 percent of the fines col-

lected at the court go to the city, 55 percent to the state

#### Nickel bingo now OK

OR KLAMATH FALLS — The folks who play bingo at the Klamath Basin Senior Citizen Center are no longer outlaws.

Five months ago, the Department of Justice contacted officials at the senior center after getting a complaint that bingo games were being played for cash.

Nickels, to be exact.

The senior center has a gambling license for the higher-stakes bingo program. But the Golden Age Club, which has about 200 members, is separate from the senior center and has never had a gaming license for its nickel-hingo operation.

The Klamath County Board of Commissioners last week amended the county's social gaming ordinance to include bingo, to the relief of the seniors who learned they've been playing an illegal game for the last two decades.

"Have fun with your bingo without the bureaucracy," Commission-er Bill Brown told an audience of about 20 seniors who came to support changing the rule.

#### Students clean up

MI ANN ARBOR — Some Uni-versity of Michigan students are cleaning up - in more ways than one.

for keeping their dormitory rooms presentable and available for tours by prospective students and their parents

Eighteen students in nine residence halls are participating in the Michigan Campus Day tour program, according to Randi Johnson, the university's housing outreach coordinator.

The rules for Campus Day participants technically don't require a clean room. Participants do, however, have to be dressed and out of bed if they are home, and must let tour groups see their room from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Displays of anything illegal, offensive or banned — like hot plates are forbidden.

Sophomores Aaron Bennick and Eric Romain are receiving \$100 each this semester to participate.

Their room impressed Clark Iverson, 44, of Royal Oak, who was on the Friday tour with his 18-year-old son, Geoffrey, a high school senior who has been admitted to Michigan.

"It's cleaner than a 15-year-old's room," Clark Iverson said

#### Banks hit by forgers

NC HIGH POINT — A group of forgers who bilked two High Point banks out of nearly \$125,000 on one day last month is suspected in similar schemes that area banks more than \$250,000 since December Police say surveillance footage showed as many as 40 to 50 people cashed counterfeit payroll checks doctored to resemble those from a local business. The scenario has been reported in recent months at three banks in Thomasville and Davidson County.

#### Developer settles debts

PROVIDENCE - The devel-Westin Hotel in Providence will pay \$6.5 million to the state to settle debts left from the 1990s banking crisis. The deal with James Procaccianti was approved by a state committee Both sides said the settlement is unrelated to the Procaccianti Group's \$95.5 million high bid for the Westin.

#### County goes after city

DETROIT - Wayne Coun-MI DETROIT — wayne ty officials want Hamtramck to refund nearly \$4 million in overpayments, a burden the struggling city says it can't afford. The county says it overpaid Hamtramck for 15 years as part of an agreement that compensates the city for revenue lost in connection with the county jail. The error was discovered after the county's longtime accounting director retired

#### Trust land package sinks

PHOENIX — Efforts to hammer out a package of state trust land changes to benefit education funding, preservation of open space and planned development have foundered at the Legislature, officials said. Arizona has 9.3 million acres of trust land, awarded by the federal government at statehood. It must be used to benefit public schools and institutions.

They're getting cash payments Stories and photos from wire services

## **New Academy members deal** with first-time voting jitters

BY BETH HARRIS The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES eith David popped in a DVD of "Vera Drake" and settled into the comfort of his pillow-strewn brown sofa. The veteran actor had decisions to make lots of them — that would affect careers and coffers alike.

David is a new member of one of the world's most exclusive voting blocs, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences He's deciding for the very first time who gets to go home with an Oscar on Sunday.

"My vote counts," he said.

"It's like I'm the Electoral Col-

David, animator Brad Bird, actress Scarlett Johansson and cos-tume designer David C. Robinson were among 127 neonle invited to join the 5,808-member academy last year.

"It's really nice to be able to feel like you have some part of who is recognized," said Johansson, 20, one of the youngest vot-. "Maybe I should've done a bet with somebody to see if my picks win."

Watching 35 movies — plus 10 short subjects and 10 documentaries - and listening to five CDs of nominated songs in barely three weeks would be nirvana to most film fans

But it's been a race to the deadline - a very firm deadline that passed at 5 p.m. Tuesday - for many academy members, most of whom have jobs and families to attend to each day. David, for instance, had to cram two or three movies in after midnight one recent evening.

Bird's also felt the squeeze. "I feel a real rush, almost a panic, to see them all," he says, "so I'm voting from a place of knowledge and not just because I know someone on a film or I

like someone on a film.' Sometimes, the movies meld into a confusing blur.

Bird, nominated this year for original screenplay and animated feature for "The Incredi-bles," recently attended the academy's nominees luncheon and met best-actress contender Annette Bening. He told her he

loved her in "Finding Julia." Oops! Bird had confused "Being Julia" with best-picture nominee "Finding Neverland."

"I immediately corrected myself," he said. "I've seen so many in so little time.

Bird took his screeners - the free tapes and DVDs of the nomi-- with him everywhere and watched at least one a day During idle moments, he even

resorted to seeing some on his computer. Animated feature and original

screenplay were Bird's easiest votes — for himself.



At his home in Los Angeles, first-time Oscar voter Keith David watches actress Imelda Staunton's performance in "Vera Drake," which earned her an Academy Award nomination for best actress. He was racing to view all the films nominated before the ballot deadline Tuesday. push it over," Bird admitted.

"But in the end, you're voting on the work."

Some Academy members, in

they abstain

have the time

to review all 24

categories, so

from voting in

contests they

be able to real-

"You want to

haven't seen.

cluding Johansson, simply don't

"I feel like I did a good job," he said modestly. Robinson, the New York-

based costume designer, watched three movies a day. If

he wasn't voting, he acknowledged he probably would have skipped "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events' wents"

uid "Hotel
Rwanda."

"I+"

brain surgery," the performances and movies visual that

grab you and make you feel something. I'm going to pick the things that that. he said in a phone interview last

So, did any of our first-timers

"If I felt two works were equal-

vote for pals or someone who

ly good and I liked one person

more than another, it would

helped them get a job?

44 It's not brain surgery. It's the performances and movies and visual things that grab you

and make you feel something. I'm going to pick the things that do that.

> David Robinson Costume designer and Academy Award voter

ly give a fair judgment. said the busy actress. Others skin the more technical categories, professing ignorance

about the nuances of crafts such as sound mixing, sound editing, visual effects and cinematography

But not David, a Tony- and Emmy-nominated actor whose credits include "There's Something About Mary," "H State" and "Barbershop." "Head of

"It's my opinion," he said. "Even if I don't know enough

about it, when I look at the movie, I look at that aspect. I know how a good editor can save ... a bad director.

After watching "Vera Drake on his 36-inch television. David scribbled down notes detailing what he liked about the illegal abortion drama starring best-actress nominee Imelda Staunton.

'Torn doesn't begin to describe it," he said. "A lot of them get the same mark, so I go back and narrow it down. The few movies that I'm very hot on, I go back and watch them again. It's hard to compare actors unless you saw them all play the same mle.

Bird will be in the Kodak Theatre audience on Oscar night and Johansson will be a presenter. David and Robinson, meanwhile, will have to watch the fruits of their labors on TV because there's not enough room at the Kodak for every academy

But that hasn't dimmed David's regard for Hollywood's high-

"I'm very glad they changed the language to 'The Oscar goes to,' instead of 'The winner is.' David said. "There are no losers

#### Prince gets NAACP kudos

Prince may be a man of many names, but the NAACP likes his image regardless.

The "Purple Rain" singer will be honored with the 2005 NAACP Vanguard Award in a Los Angeles ceremony. The presentation will take place during the 36th annual NAACP Image Awards ceremony on March 19, which will be broadcast March 25 on Fox television.

"During . the '80s, Prince emerged as the musical prophet of the era, releasing a series of albums that both define and captured the spirit of the times, National Associa-tion for the Advancement of Colored People said in

a statement, "His



genre-bending songs sent shock waves through the music industry that still reverberate today

The award is given to those who have worked to increase understanding and awareness of racial and social issues. The previous honorees are film director Steven Spielberg and movie producer Stanley Kramer.

Earlier this month, Prince won two Grammy Awards — for best male R&B vocal performance for "Call My Name," a single from his most recent album, "Musicology," and best traditional R&B vocal performance for "Musicology

#### First 'Idol' to tour solo

Kelly Clarkson is hitting the road on her first solo headline tour

Clarkson, winner of the first "American Idol" competition, will open "The Breakaway Tour" March 30 in Tulsa, Okla. The tour will end in Vancouver, British Columbia.

May 29 "Nothing makes me happier than being on the road, 22-vear-old the singer said in a statement Tues-day. "I can't wait to see the fans and perform my new material" will Clarkson

perform in mostly

theater-size ven-



ues, which she says "will be a great op-

portunity for me to connect with my die-hard fans in an intimate setting." Other stops on the 34-city tour include New York, Los Angeles and Chi-

#### Film too hot for Taiwan

Director Tsai Ming-liang says he won't release his award-winning film 'The Wayward Cloud" in his native Taiwan if the island's censors insist on cutting any of its sexually explicit

scenes The film won a Silver Bear from the Berlin International Film Festival Saturday for outstanding artistic contribution. The movie stars Lee Kang-sheng, who plays a porn film actor caught between his longtime on-screen partner and his girlfriend.

The movie includes oral sex. nudity and other sexually explicit scenes

Tsai said he sought to use the film to explore the bewildering subject of the human body

"It will not be shown unless in its totality," Tsai told TV reporters.

Stories and photos from wire services

#### YOUR MONEY

#### Adjust maintenance for wintertime habits

The owner's manual for my 2004 Pontiac Vibe lists two maintenance schedules. The long-trip plan calls for the engine oil and filter to be changed every 7,500 miles (or 12 months), while the short-trip maintenance schedule sets a 3,000-mile interval for this service. Although my car meets all the requirements for the long-trip oil-change interval, the dealership where I take

it strongly recshort-trip

schedule the winter, because according to the service manager, the winters in Maine cause oil to break down more quickly, and this can lead to engine damage if the oil is not changed every 3,000 miles. Is the dealership just looking for more

business, or is it correct? TOM: Yes, and yes. Of course it's looking for more business. But harsh winter conditions can be harder on your oil.

RAY: Most manufacturers now recommend 7,500-mile oil-change interval for what they call "normal" service. That's the way most people use their cars including you, Wayn

TOM: Then they have what's usually called an "extreme duty" or "hard service" interval of 3,000 miles for people who make their engines work the hardest. These are folks who use their cars as taxicabs, drive on dirt roads a lot or tow trailers frequently. Normally, spending a extreme duty. Not for the car, any-

way. For me it would be. RAY: But what tends to happen in the winter is that people drive places they usually don't drive. In the summer, you might walk 10 minutes to the store to pick up a quart of vegan peppermint pat-ties. But when it's 2 degrees out with a 50 mph wind, and your thighs freeze together after your first 10 steps

Click and Clack bly decide to take the car. And when the car is used for lots of short trips in cold weather, the engine never really warms up

you'd proba-

TOM: Until an engine warms up and reaches full operating tem-perature, it doesn't burn its fuel efficiently. That means there's unburned gasoline in the cylinders. Some of that gasoline makes its way past the piston rings and into the crankcase, where it mixes with the oil. That mixture makes

for a lousy lubricant. RAY: So, it's not the winter tem-peratures themselves that damage the oil, it's the type of driving

people tend to do in the winter. TOM: If you make a lot of short trips like that in the winter, then it might make sense to change the oil a little more frequently. We recom mend 5,000-mile intervals to all but the most extreme drivers.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features

## More couples choosing separate bank accounts

BY SHELLENBARGER

The Wall Street Journal

Mary Glenn readily changed her name when she got married. Although she and her husband share nearly everything and are raising two kids together, there's one thing Glenn will never give up: her own checking account.

Glenn splits the household expenses with her husband but keeps a separate account for her own autonomy, security and peace of mind. "It's so freeing to be your own person, and not feel like someone is looking over your shoulder," says the Collevville. Texas, software executive

For better or worse, setups like Glenn's are increasingly common. Bucking traditional notions about the marital union, research suggests nearly half of married couples now keep separate bank accounts. A survey of 1,200 households by the Raddon Financial Group, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., a research and marketing concern, shows 48 percent of married couples have two or more checking accounts, up from 39 percent in 2001.

One reason seems to be a growing distrust between men and women on money matters. Another, deeper change is under way too: a cultural trend toward more independent banking behavior among men and women alike, says Tony Ward-Smith, a consultant to credit unions

The increase in two-income households, the high divorce rate and couples' tendency to marry at older ages are among the reasons for growth in separate accounts, Ward-Smith says. Also, more couples are part of stepfamilies with multiple lay-ers of financial responsibility, including child sup-

Many couples' lives are too complex for a joint account, Jean Lown, a Logan, Utah, college professor, says she and her husband had trouble sharing a checkbook because she carried it with her, and he sometimes forgot to record expenditures, causing tension and overdrafts. Separate accounts solved the problem, she says. Years later, "we are still happily married and using the same system.

Even couples who pool funds are taking self-protective steps.

Jenn Lynch, a Portland, Ore., product manager, believes that "nothing says trust and partnership like joint credit cards and a single joint checking account." However, she and her husband, Bill, exchanged credit reports before pooling their assets, "to make sure there was nothing funny on there,"

A growing number of financial advisers are recommending that couples keep three accounts — a joint one for household bills, and separate ones for personal needs. For a joint account, most couples pony up a percentage of household expenses equal to their share of household income; if the wife makes \$40,000 and the husband \$60,000, she would pay 40 percent of joint expenses.

Over time, many couples decide separate accounts are a hassle

Frank Pittman, an Atlanta psychiatrist and author, says he counselled one couple who were so busy allocating expenses between their separate accounts that they were "constantly preoccupied with small amounts of money. They were losing all the pleasure in life." He advised them to stop nickel-and-diming each other, pool their assets and try deciding jointly how to have some fun.

#### WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

Hig	h Lo	w Na	ume			La		Chg	Chg 9	K Chg	% Ch
10,868.0	7 9,708.4	40 Do	w Jones	Industrial	5	10,673.	19 +	62.59	+.59	-1.01	+.6
3,823,9	6 2,743,4	46 Do	w Jones	Transport	ation	3,611.	74 +	71.59	+2.02	-4.91	+25.85
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656.1	1 515.5	90 Ru	ssell 20	10		620.	54	+2.61	+.42	-4.76	+7.17
12.024.3	6 10,268.5	52 DJ	Wilshire	5000		11.725.	35 4	60.58	+.52	-2.05	+5.3
Most	NYS Active		MORE)	Most	Active		MORE)	Most	Nas Activ		R MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	) Las	: Chg
Pfizer	392310	26.31	28	SPDR	659616	119.45	+.85	Nasd100Tr	93114	2 36.94	+.05
Lucent	220827	3.19	-	SemiHTr	349446	33.06	23	Intel	907935	23.3	4
GenElec	194759	35.27	08	SP Fncl	85488	29.62	+.27	Microsoft	78332	25.21	00
NortelN If	185726	2.94	+.04	iShRs2000	84535	123.83	+.73	Cisco	58587	5 17.21	00
ExxonMbl	184797	59.42	+1.17	iShlapan	82279	10.55	08	JDS Uniph	56536	1.9	+.00
Citigrp AMD	165452 154074	48.38 16.60	+.43	GreyWolf CanAroo n	63704 63167	6.23 1.83	+.11	Oracle SunMicro	405495 39455	12.9	+.21
Masco	138038	33.07	-3.36	DJIA Diam	62875	106.83	+.77	CienaCo	38570		
WalMart	136786	53.W	3.30	CO Com	22405	43.30	4.63	Vahana	24245	2.40	

QwestCm 134259	4	.05	+.11   1	MadCata	g 293	156 1.53	+.16 Novell	334589	5.62	50
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<b>EXCHANGE RATES</b>										
Military rates										
Euro costs\$1.35598 Dollar buys€0.7354										
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British pound \$1.96 Japanese yen (Feb. 25) 102.00 South Korean won (Feb. 24) 977.00										
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Canada (Dollar)1.2374										
Denmark (Krone)5.29										
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Hong Kong (Dollar)										
Hungary (Forint)182.87										
Iceland (Krona)59.44 Israel (Shekel)4.3554										
Japan (Yen)										
Kuwait (Dinar)0.29190										
Norway (Arone)										
Norway (Krone) 5.88 Philippines (Peso) 54.64 Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 3.58										
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Switzerland (Franc) 1 10										
Thailand (Raht) 38.34										
Thailand (Baht) 38.34 Turkey (New Lira) 1.3000										
(Military exchange rates are those										
available to customers at military bank-										
ing facilities in the country of issuance										
Netherlands and the United Kingdom.										
For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-										
(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-										
ny), check with your local military bank-										
ny), check with your local military bank- ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-										
buying currency. All figures are foreign										
currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in										
British pound, which is represented in										
dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is										

#### PRECIOUS METALS

#### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.5
Discount rate	3.51
Federal funds market rate	2.51
3-month bill	2.6
30-year bond	4.6
Sources: The Associated Press,	Bank o

## ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

#### Financial help for kids

NEW YORK - Don't cave in to your teenager's pleas for a credit card or prepaid "allowance" card.

They're just not ready for plas-tic, says Janet Bodnar. executive editor of Kiplinger's Personal Finance. She offers a timeline for your child's financial development: Start by teaching your preschooler to save his or her money. Kids this young literally need to see their money, so don't head for the bank just yet. "They think if their money goes in, they're never going to get it back again," explains Bodnar. Instead, keep your child's savings in a jar or piggybank. Age 8: Open a savings ac-

count. By now, your child is old enough to understand that a bank will keep his or her money

safe until it is needed. Age 16: Open a checking account with an ATM/debit card. "Kids should have checking accounts when they get their first part-time job in high school," Bodnar says. "The key is that it's their money they have access

to." Sometimes banks are reluctant to open a checking account for a minor, so be sure to ask about joint or custodial accounts

Resist the prepaid credit cards marketed to this age group, warns Bodnar. "They're marketed for parents as a tool to teach the kids how to manage their money," she says. "Young kids don't really make a distinc tion between a prepaid card, a credit card or a debit card. They don't get it. They don't see it as a money-management tool. It's not their money. It's still mom and dad's money."

Age 18: If your child does not yet have a checking account, open one. It's a good preparation for college, and the best way for you to send him or her money in

Age 21 or 22: Let your child get a credit card. Of course, you can't prevent him or her from applying after age 18, but Bodnar says a college senior is more prepared for credit. "When kids get credit cards younger in college, it's too much of a temptation - the idea of, 'Mom and Dad will bail me out if I get into a problem.



Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy to

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with

France: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snowshowers. In the north, highs in the lower 30s. In the south,

Northern Germany: Cloudy with isors. Highs in the mid

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with isolated morning snowshowers. Highs in the

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the 50s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with morning rain-

Norway: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

cloudy with isolated rain/snowshow-ers in the east. In the north, highs in the 40s. In the south, highs in the

isolated rainshowers and thunder-storms. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

#### tp://ows.public.sembach.af.mil SUN & MOON

5:57PM 6:01PM

First qtr. 17 Mar 05 New moon 10 Mar 05 Full moon 25 Mar 05

#### TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

3047 55 61 36 25 60 59 37 70 54 45 33 25 49 34 28 55 47 18 27 49 31 57 35 66 57 49 31 55 30 47 22 24 33 8 25 6 49 39 39 25 57 28 24 15 27 20 45 25 30 7 27 13 77 33 28 50 79 60 53 41 58 62 40 54 80 52 59 31 59 34 55 56 44 64 85 93 46 54 65 80 47 33 33 59 60 530 28 46 33 46 34 51 58 35 56 35 60 57 56 41 52 29 34 52 27 20 16 55 56 39 50 56 52 40 22 11 31 18 31 25 26 35 20 42 23 42 35 32 17 30 19 20 50 20 39 25 31 31 23 Snov Cld Cld Snow PCId) Cldy PCId) Ci PCId) Snow PCkty

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Kandaha 62/42

84/63

76/54

91/75

7777 

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

Scheduled to ETS or PCS Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

333



#### Horoscope

In spite of best intentions, it quickby becomes apparent that what will
WIRE
be will be — you are not entirely in
charge. The resides energy
that takes over is perfect for
drifting on the waves of
imagination and going
where the tides tug. The
moon enters Libra tonight,
and what occurs after that
will make the whole day
seem worthwithing.

#### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 25). You're alive with the spirit of learning. Mental expansion also

ing. Mental expansion also makes you of hos-ottractive to just the people you love to be around. Make sure to put plenty of fun into your schedule this spring, or you'll be too resentful to make the most of a June opportunity. The practicalities of love are solved in April, paving the way for a dreamy connection.

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19).

There are people to meet, places to go and things to buy. If you put your attention on the people and places, it will seem less important to purchase the extra trappings to prove

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You've played love's game, and now, your romantic prospect is exactly where you want him or her As Dorothy Parker once said, "... and if that makes you happy, kid, you'll be the first it ever did."

#### **GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Life's juicy offerings go to the patient now. Once you arrive in a social

now. Once you arrive in a social setting, plan to stay as long as possible. If you loiter around long enough, the whole world will drift in and out.

#### CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your inner wild child comes to the fore. You may feel possessive when others how at the moon. Your feral heart acts out in a way that no one else should be able to duplicate, crowd or stop.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You get what you aim for, so aim high. You might be surprised at what you

actually stop yourself from accepting because down deep you still don't feel you deserve it. It's not too late to change your self-concept.

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

There's a fanciful twist in the plot of your love life — how delicious. Don't spend your energy telling everyone. Keep romantic ascrets. Also, while can gafter fame or notoriety, you could actually make some money.

#### make some mon LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Restlessness sets in — you sense that other people in the world are having much

more fun than you. In this state, daily chores can seem lethal. If you can blow off responsibility and be spontaneous, you're cured.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's so much creative energy at your disposal! But in order to keep producing, you must keep exposing yourself to new influences. Educate

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

vourself. It's thrilling work.

21). The theme is compassion. Having more of it requires an effort, but you won't be sorry you tried. See a problem from at least three points of view before you make a judgment. A loving Aquarius helps.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

CAPRICONN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your train of thought has definitely left the station. Now that you're on your way with this new project and your brain is humming with what to do next and next and next, you are extremely attractive to new romantic prospects.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).
Good news invigorates you and just when you need it the most! It's also stimulating to be around people who are riding out a wave of success.
Say "yes" to the invitation tonioht.

#### but do put boundaries in place. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Take care of your body. Your mind and your relationships run beautifully when you feel good. It's a fine time to stop worrying about that family member who continues to march to a different drummer.

Creators Syndicate

#### **Peanuts**









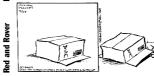
or Worse



















#### **Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

	<b>0</b>											
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#### Across

- 1 Cheerleaders' call
- 7 Tonto's horse
- 12 401(k) alternative
- 13 "Huzzah!" to Jose
- 14 "Stormy Weather" singer
- 15 Part of MPH
- 16 Pantomime clown
- 18 Conclusion
- 19 De-squeaked
- 22 Artists' \$ source
- 23 Splicing material
- 27 Hasten
- 29 Section of
- 31 Cause (havoc)
- 34 Sluggish creek
- 35 Paul Newman
- 37 Has potential
- 38 Shrek is one
- 39 "Surfin' -- "
- 41 "Pygmalion"
- playwright
- 47 "Hail. Caesar!"
- 48 Augury
- 53 Executive bellvache
- 54 Past
- 55 Gluttor

- 57 Actor Beatty
- 56 Flavorless

- Down 1 More mature
- 2 Sports venue
- 3 Half a legendary
  - comedy duo
- 4 That's a laugh 5 "Seinfeld" role
- 6 Actress Oberon
- 7 Lean-to
- 8 au vin
- 9 Tulsa sch. 10 One (Pref.)
- 11 1992 Pearl Jam
- alhum 17 Kevin's "King of
  - Queens" co-star
- 21 Form
- 23 "- Anatomy"
- 24 Nevada town
- 25 Ultramodernist
- 26 Flightless bird
- 28 Mamie's man

- 48 Nave 49 Every last crumb 50 GE merger co.

30 "The — Daba

question?

32 Scott Joplin's

37 Horsemanship

40 "The Dragons of

Eden" writer

42 Silent-movie

44 Sand-trap club

46 Trampled (on)

star?

45 Surround

43 Duck

music

33 Mess up

36 Destroy

31 Personal

Honeymoon"

- 51 Stein or Affleck

I V

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

Α	м	Р		н	F	Α	Р		ī	Α	м	F
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#### CRYPTOOUIP

UX VXGN EIYYQVD LNXLJN,

ZNTVXAVDOL GOYDU LANVV

K N RNVZAOKNR

EAQUNA'V ZJIGL Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD A PRIOR PRESIDENT'S DENTURES BE CALLED? THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T

## **Get help for desire to be amputee**

Dear Abby: I am 13 years old and I suffer from a condition where the person has a strong persistent desire to have one or more limbs amputated. This happens every day, and I don't understand it, but I want to have my leg amputated.

I have researched prosthetics on the Internet and have found that life as an amputee is not that different But I'm afraid if I tell my parents they will think I'm crazy. What should I do? It is ripping me apart.

#### Wannabe Amputee in Berkeley Dear Wannahe: The

compulsion you have described is, I don't have to tell you, an unusual one. Please find the courage to tell your parents what is on your mind. Your parents may want you to explore this issue with a psychotherapist. Do not be afraid

to do so; it does not mean you

are "crazy."

Dear Abby: In my line of work I come in contact with a lot of people. Occasionally, my clients bring up the subject of race and make unacceptable com-

I have two beautiful biracial children and I feel I need to

defend their honor and tell these people I do not approve of the comments. However, I have been informed by management that I am not allowed to say anything to the clients

How can I handle this tastefully?

— Offended in Oberlin,

Dear Offended: A picture is worth a thou sand words. If there are no rules against displaying family photographs, bring a lovely framed picture of your little ones to work and display it on your desk. Should anyone ask who the children are, smile sweetly and say, "They're

Dear Abby: My 75-year-old paternal grandmother, "Granny Claire," smells like mothballs and she's totally unaware of it. She stores her winter clothes in a basement storage area filled with mothballs and the odor has saturated her house and everything in

Other people have been offend-ed by it and have made comments to my sister and me. We have tried to tell Granny nicely, but she acts like we're exaggerating and shrugs it off. No one can stay in her home for long periods.

- Holding my Nose in N.J. Dear Holding: As people age their senses dull, and the senses of hearing, taste and smell can be affected. In your grandmother's case, I recommend a family intervention that she cannot shrug off — and that her son, your father, accompany her to an ear, nose and throat specialist for an evaluation.

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, STAGE one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words YARDT KLANE HEETES

CEIVED

Jumbles: FILMY

A NICE "TIP"

Answer:

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers tomorrow) VIOLIN

TOXIC

What the bookie gave the waiter -

EXPEND

HOW THE STEAMY

SOAP OPERA STAR

LEFT THE FANS.

Now arrange the circled letters to

Yesterday's

#### **Family Circus**



"I've been in here a long time, Mommy. Am I sorry yet?"

## Absent-mindedness likely a phase

Dear Annie: I have a Annie's Mailbox pre-teen daughter, "Angel" She is develon ing into a classic stereo type of the blonde airhead. Just today, she went to get the mail, set it down in an unusual place and promptly forgot about it.
When I asked her what happened to the mail, she had to search for five minutes before she found it. Last month, I had to turn the car around be-cause Angel forgot a birthday present that she'd had in her hands 30 seconds before we got into the car.

Angel is smart, caring, friendly and witty, but I'm afraid this absent-mindedness will be a major problem for her in the

years to come. I teach high school, and I know how cruel kids can be and how quickly peers can reinforce such

personality traits. I've tried positive reinforce ment. We've had long talks about awareness. We've even worked on reminders to help her remember glasses, homework, lunch money,

Dear Abby

etc. Nothing helps. I need help for my sanity a little, but mostly for Angel's self-esteem. I've already heard the "I'm so stupid" comment from her a couple of times, and it breaks my heart. Is there a 12-step program for this type of

> - Airhead's Dad in Las Vegas Dear Dad: This could

be hormones run amuck. It is not unusual for pre-teens and teenagers to seem scatterbrained and forgetful However, before making that assumption, please have her checked out by her pediatrician. There may be a physiological reason why Angel cannot focus.

In the meantime, please do not make a fuss over this, or you will be reinforcing the behavior, too, Dad. Negative attention is still attention, and when she knows she is disappointing you, she feels inadequate. Give her a calendar so she can keep track of her home work assignments and special dates, suggest she concentrate

when she puts something down

set up specific places for keys, glasses, etc., and then let her deal with it. We think it will pass.

Dear Annie: A friend of mine recently married and received a large check from a friend of the groom's family. When she tried to cash it, the check bounced twice. Thus far, she has re-mained silent about it and hasn't told her in-laws. I don't know what to tell her. Can you help? Girlfriend

Dear Girlfriend: We contacted Peggy Post of the Emily Post Institute, and this is what she "There is no need to say anything to the groom's family. Don't blow the whistle. Send a thank-you note for the generous gift, and leave it at that. The guests will know that the checked bounced, and hopefully, they will do the right thing and

send another one. Senta unioner one:
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy
Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime
editors of the Ann Landers column.
Please e-mail your questions to
anniesmailbox/ecomeast.net, or write
to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndi
cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite Prol,
Los Angeles, CA 50045.

GRAFFIT INTO IT MARA

WHO NEEDS BRAKES #1 BRAKES ARE FOR

IAMSTERETTES. LE THUMPER SPECIAL Side

Down at the Eat and Slithe



#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **AFN TV & Radio**

#### Friday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Ar-izona St. at Washington (dld). izona St. at Washington (dfl).

AFN-Sports, noon-College basketball:
Marquette at Cincinnati (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-College basketball:
Gonzaga at Portland (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-Golf: World Golf Championships, Accenture Match Play Championship, 3rd round.

#### Saturday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—Motorcycle racing: HQ World Supercross (San Diego) (dld). AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—Pro basketball: Cleve-and at Indiana. AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.—Pro basketball: Denver APH-radus, 2 data—T-10 volume and value and a Memphiss. 4 ann—Boxing: Friday Night Heights, Ireny Smith (22-1-1, 15 KGs) vs. Ferney Feliz (21-4, 14 KGs), heazyweights.
APH-Pacific, 430 a.m.—Pro basketball: Minnesota at Seath (430 a.m.—Pro basketball: Derroit at L.A. Lakers...—Motor racing: Craftsman Trucks Series American Racing Wheels mon Trucks Series American Racing Wheels mon Trucks Series American Racing Wheels 200 (dld).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Pro basketball: Cleve-land at Indiana (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—Outdoors: FLW Bass Tour at Lake Okeechobee (dld).

AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m.—College basketball: AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m.—College basketball: Providence at Syracuse. AFN-Sports and Radio, 7 p.m.—College bas-ketball: Missouri at Texas. AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—Outdoors: Babe Winkelmans' Good Fishing. AFN-Atlantic, 7:30 p.m.—College basket-ball: Kentucky at Alabama. AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. — Golf: World Golf Cham-ionships, Accenture Match Play Champion-bio complicate ship, semifinals.

AFN-Atlantic, 945 p.m.—College basket-ball: Connecticut at Pittsburgh.

AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.—College basketball: Ar-izona at Washindton.

All times are Central European Time; did in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for

#### College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared 1. Illinois (28-0) beat Northwestern 84-48. Next: vs. Purdue, Thursday, March 3. 2. North Carolina (23-3) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Sunday. 3. Boston Collenn (27-2) at Maryland, Sunday,

3. Boston College (22-2) lost to No. 23 Vilianova 76-70. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Saturday,

4. Oklahoma State (20-4) did not play,
Next: at No. 8 Kansas, Sunday,

5. Kentucky (21-3) beat Auburn 81-73. Next:

at No. 16 Alabama, Saturday,

6. Wake Forest (23-4) beat Longwood "6. "Wake Forest (23-4) beat Longwood Sed-Takert y Myrginia, Sunday The-Pot 60-56. Nort at \$1. John S. Sturday." Nort va \$1. John S. Sturday. Nort va \$1. John S. Fig. 10 and 10 a 22. Oklahoma (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
23. Villanova (18-6) beat No. 3 Boston College 76-70. Next: at Georgetown, Sunday.
24. Cincinnati (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Thursday.
25. Nevada (21-5) did not play. Next: at Fresno State, Saturday.

#### Wednesday's men's scores

Albright 31, Library 10, 100 and 10, 100 a Massachusetts 70, Rhode Island 64, OT Menlo 79, Holy Names 67 Navy 76, Little gette 57 Navy 76, Little gette 67, Seton Hall 54 Navy 76, Little gette 67, Seton Hall 54 Navy 76, Little gette 67, Seton Hall 54 Navy 76, Little gette 67, Seton Maline 86, New England 75 St. Thomas Aguinas 98, Bridgeport 93 Villanova 76, Booton College 70 West Virginia 70, Pittsburgh 65 Navy 76, Little gette 67, Little gette 67,

Augusta St. 81, S.C.-Aiken 62 Buffalo 68, Marshall 55 Buffalo 68, Marshall 55 Charlotte 80, Memphis 77 Clayton St. 75, Kennesaw 70, 20T Coll. of Charleston 72, Furman 66, 0T Columbus St. 83, Georgia College 74 Duke 60, Georgia Tech 56 East Carolina 77, Southern Miss. 66 Florida 69, Vanderbilt 61 Florida 69, Vanderbilt 61
Florida Tech 76, Rollins 68, OT
Francis Marion 81, N.C.-Pembroke 52 Hofstra 66, Old Dominion 63 James Madison 68, Towson 58 Kentucky 81, Auburn 73 Lynn 69, Barry 64 Miles 75, Clark Atlanta 56 Miles 75, Clark Atlanta 56 Mississippi St. 76, Georgia 62 N.C.-Wilmington 68, Deläware 65 Northwestern St. 67, Nicholis St. 65 Presbyterian 92, Tusculum 86 Radford 92, High Point 87, 20T S.C.-Upstate 81, Lander 64 TCU 77, Tulane 63 Tennessee 80, South Carolina 72 Va. Commonwealth 91, William & Mary 69 Wake Forest 88, Longwood 47 Winthrop 63, VMI 48

Winthrop 63, VMI 48"
MIDWEST
Adrian 77, Olivet 65
Akron 55, Miami (Ohio) 49, OT Akron 55, Miami (Ohio) 49, OT Ablion 111, Tr-I-State 88 Bethany, Kan. 75, Suchwestern, Kan. 74 Bethel, Kan. 76, Suchwestern, Kan. 74 Butler 73, Youngstown St. 59 Calvin 86, Kalamazoo 67 Carnegie-Mellon 87, Case Reserve 80 Central St., Ohio 67, Wilberforce 45 Detroit 68, Wis-Green Bay 56 Elmhurst 68, Millikin 68 Einhurst St. Millikin 65
Findlay 62, Hildsale 49
Findlay 63, Hildsale 49
Findlay 63, Hildsale 49
Findlay 64, Hildsale 49
Findlay 64, Hildsale 49
Findlay 64, Hildsale 49
Findlay 64, Hildsale 64
Findlay 64, Hildsale 64, Hillsale 64, Hildsale 64, Hillsale N. Illinois 72, Bowlind Green 61: NW Missouri S. 58, Missouri Western 57 S. Illinois 76, N. Iówa 63 Sterling 69, Ottawa, Ran. 47 S

Washburn 97, Emporia St. 73
Wichita St. 72, SW Missouri St. 61
William Penn 84, Waldorf 75
Xavier 81, George Washington 62
SOUTHWEST
Lamar 88, Texas-San Antonio 83
Texas A&M-C.C. 99, Huston-Tillotson 67
FAR WEST Grand Canyon 77, W. New Mexico 64
TOURNAMENT
CUNY Athletic Conference

Semifinals Sycot 83, CCNY 69 Staten Island 79, Lehman 70 Commonwealth Con Commonwearth Conter First Round Lebanon Valley 74, Messiah 66 Freedom Conferenc

valley (A. Ness) All De Freedom Conference Desales 67, Wilkes 63 Mings, Pa. 75, Caranton 70 Mascas Framingham St. 48, Bridgewater, Mass. 47 Salem St. 81, Westfield St. 74 Mid-Central Conference Hurdington 88, Bethel, Ind. 75 New Jersey Athletic Conference

w Jersey Athletic Con Ramapo 51, Rutgers-Newark 46 Richard Stockton 79, Rowan 78 Ohio Conference Quarterfinals Baldwin-Wallace 78, Otterbein 76, OT John Carroll 75, Wilmington, Ohio 67 Mount Union 95, Capital 74 Muskingum 81, Ohio Northern 63

#### AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. LSU (25-1) did not play. Next: at Arkan-sas, Thursday.
2. Duke (25-2) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Thursday. 3. Stanford (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Or-enon. Thursday. 3. Stafflord (24-2) us not pay. Read tegon, Thursday, 4. Ohio State (25-3) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Thursday, 5. Tennessee (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Mississipp State, Thursday, 6. Baylor (22-3) beat Kansas 70-60. Next: at

Colorado, Saturday, 6. Michigan State (25-3) beat Michigan 7-34. Next: vs. TBA, Big Ten tournament, Fri-lay, March 4. 8. North Carolina (22-3) did not play. Next: "S. North Carolina (22-3) did not play, Next:
y (Irgina), Tilcyally not play, Next: a Pitts-burgh, Friday,
y (Irgina), Tilcyally not play, Next:
y Meri Virgina, Saturday,
11. Connection (19-6) did not play, Next:
y Meri Virgina, Saturday,
12. Depaul (23-3) did not play, Next: yMarquette, Sundy (19-2), did not play, Next: yCarolina (19-2), did not play, Next: yy, Oldghorna, Saturday, Next: yy, Oldghorna, Saturday, Next: y1, Mannesota (20-6) did not play, Next: y1, Mannesota (20-6)

TANK MCNAMARA

THE PREATEST VALUE OF

THE BYENTEST VALUE OF THE NFL SCOUTING COMBINE IS THAT ALL THE COACHING STAFFS GET A HEAD-TO-HEAD, APPLES-TO-APPLES, SAME-TIME COMPARISON. FOR EXAMPLE, VERTICAL LEAP.

16. Temple (22-3) did not play. Next: at

Massachusetts, Thursday, 17. Kansas State (19-6) beat Nebraska 94-69. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday, 18. Georgia (20-7) did not play. Next: at 19. North Carolina State (19-6) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday, 20. Vanderbilt (19-6) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday, 20. Vanderbilt (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Thursday.

Aby, -- amery tert (1954) and not play, Next: vs. Alabama, Truet (205) beat Hissouri 76-70.
21. Iowa State (205) Seat Hissouri 76-70.
22. Penn State (18-7) did not play, Next: at No. 4 Ohlo State, Sunday.
23. Maryland (18-7) did not play, Next: vs. 24. Boston College (17-8) did not play.
24. Boston College (17-8) did not play.
25. Gonzaga (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Dertland, Salturday.

#### Wednesday's women's scores

Wednesday's women's score

EAST
Albany, N.Y. 81, Store Prook 60
American International 71, Bentley 60, OT
American International 71, Bentley 60, OT
American St. Bentley 60, OT
American 51, Bentley 60, OT
Bengharton 51, Bentley 63
Bucknell 72, Holy Cross 71
Bucknell 72, Holy Cross 71
Columbia Loino not, Cheyney 62
East Stroudsburg 72, Mansfield 63
Iona 89, Fairfield 76 Lafayette 68, Navy 58 Maine 59, Boston U. 56 Millersville 54, Kutztow Millersville 54, Kutztown 40 Molloy 92, Mercy, N.Y. 74 Moravian 78, Widener 71 Northeastern 67, New Hamp nurtneastern 67, New Hampshire 61 Philadelphia 70, Concordia, N.Y. 56 Slippery Rock 64, Indiana, Pa. 59 Southampton 86, C.W. Post 64 St. Thomas Aguinas 67, Bridgeport 64 Vermont 69, UMBC 51 Vermont 69, UMBC 50 Jugusta St. 67, S.C.-Alken 64 Barry 67, Lynn 40 Ellyrkis 6-79

August S. E. Gr. Sc. Alken 64 Florida Southern 82, St. Leo 74 Florida 1 Ech 55, Rollins 92, T. Leo 74 Florida 1 Ech 55, Rollins 92, T. Columbus St. 70 Georgia College 78, Columbus St. 70 Miles 64, Clark Atlanta 52 M.C. Asheville 54, Winthron 94 N.C. Permbroke 65, Francis Marion 48 N.C. Permbroke 65, Francis Marion 48 N.C. Permbroke 65, Francis Marion 160 N.C. Permbroke 16

Bayling Green 73, Marshall 62 Carleton 67, St. Mary's, Minn. 51 Case Reserve 81, Carnegie-Melli Culver-Stockton 65, Baker 61 Dakota St. 67, Minot St. 55 E. Michigan 69, Cent. Michigan 53 Eureka 70, Benedictine,III. 65, OT Evangel 61, Missouri Valley 44 Evangel 61. Missouri Valley 44. Hillsdale 51. Findlay 48 Indiana St. 82. Evansville 69 lowa St. 76. Missouri 70 Kansas St. 34, Nebraska 69 Kernal (Ohlo) 88. Buffalo 50 Michigan St. 77, Michigan 34 Missouri Western 84, New Missouri Western 85, Olivanda Missouri Western 86, Missouri Wester

Texas 83, Colorado 40 Texas A&M 75, Oklahoma St. 61 Texas Tech 83, Oklahoma 70 Texas-San Antonio 82, Lamar 55 U ar 55

de 72, Dor Mascac Semifinals Fitchburg St. 53, Worcester St. 51

Wiac Semifinals Wis.-Oshkosh 74, Wis.-Stevens Pt. 67 Wis.-Stout 70, Wis.-Eau Claire 65, OT

Fresno St. 57, Utah Valley St. 36

#### College baseball

#### Wednesday's scores

SOUTH Alabama-Birmingham 1, Alabama 0, susp. 1½ innings, lightning

... WHICH FOR PLAYERS AT SOME POSITIONS, HONESTLY, DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.

HAVE YOU JUMPED YET

HAVE YOU JUMPED YET

Auburn-Montgomery 13, Huntingdon 1 Augusta St. 5, Paine 3

Auburn-Mengagnery 13. Huntingdon 1
Berry 11.6, Finery Frenghe 0-0
Erry 11.6, Finery Frenghe 0-0

Rollins 7, St. Leo 1
Virginia 8, Old Dominion 0
West Alabama 5, Kennesaw St. 1
St. Edward's 9, Texas A&M-Kingsville 5
FAR WEST
Arizona 11, Arizona St. 5

#### Tennis

#### **Dubai Championships**

Wednesday At Dubai Tennis Stadium Dubai, UAE

At Dubal Terring Stadium
Purses 31 million (Inst. Indus)
Surface Hard-Outdoor
Surface Hard-Ou

#### Qatar Open Wednesday At The Khalifa Tennis Centre Doha, Qatar Purse: \$600,000 (Tier II) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Second Round

Singles Second Round Alicia Molik (4), Australia, def. Nicole ratt, Australia, 6-3, 6-2. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Elena Pratt, Australia, 63, 62. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Blena Bovina (6), Russia, 6-0, 3-6, 5-1, Marcino Bartoli, France, def. Jelena Kostan-Crossle, 7-5, 50-6, 20, Russia, def. Gisela Dulko, Argentina, 6-1, 6-1, Francesca Schlavone, Italy, def. Al Sugiyama, Japan, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 ma, Japan, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. Conchita Martinez, Spain, def. Anastasia Myskina (3), Russia, 6-4, 7-5. Maria Kirlienko, Russia, def. Patty Schny-der (5), Switzerland, 6-0, 1-6, 6-2. Amelie Mauresmo (1), France, def. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia-Montenegro, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

#### Tennis Channel Open

Wednesday
At The Fairmont Scottsdale Princ
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Purse: \$380,000 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles

#### Mexican Open

MeXIcal Upen

At The Individual Open

At The Individual Open

At The Individual Open

Acadeto, Merica

Acadeto, Merica

Acadeto, Merica

Acadeto, Merica

Surface, Clay-Outdoor

Men

Acadeto, Merica

Acadeto, Me ipain, 7-5, 6-2. — Institute of the Control of the

#### Women First Round

First Round
Emmanuelle Gagliardi (22), Switzerland,
def. Camille Pin (21), France, 5-2, 6-1.
Flavia Pennetta (1), Italy, def. Julia Schruff
(16), Germany, 7-5, 6-1.
Meghann Shaugnessy (2), USA, def. Melissa Torres (25), Mexico, 6-3, 7-5.
Second Round

Lilia Osterloh, United States, def. Marta Jomachowska (7), Poland, 7-5, 6-4. Catalina Castano, Colombia, def. Alina Jidk-wa (4), Russia, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. ova (4), Russia, 2-6, 5-4, 5-20, der. Fainta Julic Ludmila Gervanova, Slovakia, def. Marissa Irvin, United States, 6-1, 6-1, adagascar, def. Dally Randriantely (5), 6-1, adagascar, def. Tatlana Pereblynis, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2, Severine Beltrame, France, def. Emille Loit (3), France, 7-6 (6), 7-5.

#### Auto racing

#### **Busch Series standings**

1. Tony Stewart, 190; 2. Kevin Harylck, 170; 3. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., 170; 4. Martin Truex, Jr., 160; 5. Kasey Kahne, 155; 6. Robby Gor-don, 150; 7. Greg Biffle, 147; 8. Michael Wal-trip, 146; 9. Carl Edwards, 139; 10. Reed Soren-son, 138.

#### Craftsman Trucks standings

1. Bobby Hamilton, 185: 2. Jimmy Spencer, 175: 3. Todd Bodine, 175: 4. Ricky Craven, 165: 5. Ted Musgrave, 155: 6. Brad Keselows-kl, 151: 7. Ken Weaver, 150: 8. David Starr, 142: 9. Johnny Berson, 139: 10. Wayne Ed-wards, 138.

#### Deals

#### Wednesday's transactions

Wednesday's transactions
AND RECING
TO RECING

ing inspections.

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – Announced OF Matt
Diaz has elected to become a free agent.
Mational League
HOUSTON ASTROS – Agreed to terms with
RHP Juan Gutlerez and RHP Fernando Nieve RHP Juan Gutierrez and RHP Fernando Nieve on one-year contracts.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS – Agreed to terms with INF Lyle Overbay, INF Bill Hall and RHP Ben Hendrickson on one-year contracts. SAN DIEGO PADRES – Agreed to terms with RHP Andy Ashby and IB-OF-C Robert Fick on minor league contracts.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Chad Cordero on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Placed G Steve imith on the injured list. Signed G Matt Car-DALLAS MAVERICKS—Placed C Eric Dampi-er on the injured list. Activated C DJ Mbenga er on the injured list. Activated C DI Minenga from the injured list. DENYER NUGGETS—Named Doug Moe as-sistant coach, Reassigned Michael Cooper, assistant coach, within the organization. GOLDEN STATE WARKINGS—Placed G Luis Flores on the injured list. Activated F Troy WILD ADELPHIA TREES—Acquired F Chris PHIADDELPHIA TREES—Acquired F Chris WHADDELPHIA TREES—ACQUIRED F Chris WOODER, Matt Barnes and Michael Brad-velover. Matt Barnes and Michael Brad-

ley from the Sacramento Kings for F Brian Skinner, F Kenny Thomas and F Corliss Williamson.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Placed G

Derek Anderson on the injured list. Activated F Shareef Abdur-Rahim from the injured st.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Placed F-C Sean
Aprile on the injured list. Activated G Mike

VIIks from the injured list.

UTAH JAZZ—Placed G Raul Lopez on the inured list. Activated G Keith McLeod from jured list. Activated G Reith MULESUN IN-the injured list. WIZARDS—Placed G Juan Jixon and C Peter John Ramos on the injured list. Activated G Larry Hughes and F kwame Women's National Baskethall Association SEATTLE STORM—Re-signed F Lauren Jack-

Son.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS—Named Alex Gibbs
consultant, Clancy Barone tight ends coach
and Jeff Jagodzinski assistant head coach

ind offensive line coach.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed QB Drew Bled-DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed UB Drew Bied-soe to a three-year Contracts of Q Jay Fledler, S Arturo Freeman, S Shawn Wooden and DE Jay Williams. Or Shawn Wooden and DE Jay Williams. Or Shawn Wooden WE WENGLAND PATRIATY coach and Harold In the Wengland of Control of the Management of the Control of the Buck Rasmussen, G Williams Brown and TE

Zeron Flemister.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Named Tim Ruskell president of football operations and general

manager.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

LOS ANGELES GALAXY — Acquired MF Guillermo Ramirez on loan from CSD Municipal of
Guatemala's First Division.

## Villanova adds BC to list of ranked upset victims

BY DAN GELSTON The Associated Press

VILLANOVA. Pa. - With big wins over ranked teams and a winning surge that has them streaking up the Big East standings, the Villanova Wildcats seem poised to return to the NCAA tournament

Still, coach Jay Wright is not resting easi-

"We really don't talk about that," Wright said. "We're very concerned about our reg-ular season. It's so subjective. We go for

our own goals." Check beating the No. 2 and 3 teams in the country off the list.

Randy Foye scored 23 points and the 23rd-ranked Wildcats survived a nine-minute stretch without a field goal to beat No. 3 Boston College 76-70 on Wednesday night.

The enthusiastic fans stormed the court just as they have for two other home wins over Top 25 teams, chanted "Tourna-ment!" and shook hands with Wright. "We're learning how to win," Wright

their fourth Top 25 team of the year, includ-ing a win over then-No. 2 Kansas last month, and bolstered their chances of making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1999

Villanova has won nine of 11 and moved into a three-way tie for fourth place with Pittsburgh and Georgetown in the conference standings. Boston College remained in first, one game ahead of Connecticut.

"We were confident we could come in and play well, but we're still not thinking about the NCAAs," said Curtis Sumpter, who played with a sore knee and scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half. Kyle Lowry added 11 points for the Wildcats

Craig Smith led a second-half rally for Boston College (22-2, 11-2) and finished with 18 points, while Jared Dudley had 15

The Wildcats, coming off a win over then-No. 17 Pittsburgh on Sunday, used 70 percent three-point shooting in the first half to take a halftime lead they stretched to 13 points early in the second half. When

Jason Fraser made a layup at the 13:15 mark, the Wildcats led 57-47 and seemed in control

 who rallied from halftime The Eagles deficits to win eight times this season started their run while Villanova went into a field-goal drought.

Steve Hailey capped a 12-2 spurt with a three-pointer that pulled the Eagles to 62-60 with 6:23 left

Fove banked a 6-footer for a 67-64 lead. ending the drought. The Wildcats never lost the lead thanks to 8-for-10 free-throw shooting during that span. 36-for-41 overall from the line.

'It's very difficult to win a game when the opposing team shoots 41 free throws," Boston College coach Al Skinner said. "We just didn't make the plays that were going

to tie it and make them feel uncomfortable We never got over the hump."

No, but they gave the Wildcats a scare.

Hailey pulled BC to 67-66 with a jumper,

but fouled out on the next possession.

Foye pushed the lead to 73-68 with an arcing baseline jumper. Then, the Wildcats sealed it from the line.



Villanova's Randy Foye celebrates in the final minute against Boston College. Foye led with 23 points as Villanova won, 76-70.





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## Devils keep Jackets from breakthrough

ATLANTA — Even with B.J. Elder back, Georgia Tech can't seem to generate momentum to make a run for an NCAA tournament bid.

Elder made his second straight start after missing nine games at the start of the Atlantic Coast Conference schedule with a hamstring injury, but the senior who normally provides scoring leadership for the Yellow Jackets was held to two points in a 60-56 loss No. 7 Duke on Wednesday

was 0-for-5 from three-point range, committed 19 turnovers and shot 29 percent from the field in the second half, wasting a strong defensive effort.

'I think the turnovers are putting some pressure on us," Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. The first half, in particular, we some breakouts, and I thought if we could convert those, mentally and psychologically we could get into the flow a little bit. And then you're not squeezing the shot like it's the one.

The struggles have left Tech without consecutive wins since early January

Hewitt said Duke (20-4, 10-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) looks like a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. One year after advanc-ing to the NCAA championship game, Tech (15-9, 6-7) is not even ssured of a bid

Tech now faces road games at Miami and Wake Forest before closing its conference schedule at home against Clemson

'We're not really in a panic mode, we just know this game Sat-urday at Miami is going to be a big one for us," Elder said.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Tech's breakthrough is inevi-

"They were this close to win-ning tonight," Krzyzewski said, holding his fingers less than an inch apart. "They're too good and are too well-coached and they are good kids. It'll happen. I'm just happy that it didn't happen against us tonight."



No. 1 Illinois 84, Northwestern 48: Dee Brown scored 18 of his 20 points on three-pointers to lead the Illini (28-0, 14-0), who clinched at least a share of the Big Ten title for the second straight season. Brown had five threes in the first half as Illinois took a 45-22 lead.

No. 5 Kentucky 81, Auburn 73: Kelenna Azubuike had career highs of 30 points and 11 re-bounds for the Wildcats (21-3. 12-1 Southeastern Conference), who clinched at least a share of the East Division title for the sixth straight season.

No. 6 Wake Forest 88, Longwood 47: Taron Downey scored 13 points as the Demon Deacons (23-4) cruised to the nonconference home win

Michael Jefferson scored 14 points for the Lancers (1-29), who extended their school-record losing streak to 18 games in their first season in Division I.

No. 15 Syracuse 83, St. John's 69: Hakim Warrick had a career-high 35 points and grabbed 10 rebounds - his 12th double-double of the season — and the Orange (23-5, 10-4 Big East) broke a two-game losing streak to give coach Jim Boeheim his 699th win.

West Virginia 70, No. 18 Pitts-burgh 66: Kevin Pittsnogle scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half and the visiting Moun-taineers (17-8, 7-7 Big East) rallied from 14 points down to sweep

the season series.

Chevon Troutman had 15 points for the Panthers (18-6, 8-5), who didn't have a field goal in the final 7:26

No. 21 Charlotte 80, Memphis 77: At Charlotte, N.C., Eddie Basden scored 24 points, including two free throws with 1.8 seconds to play, and the 49ers (20-4, 11-2) won their sixth straight.

## O'Neal sparks Pacers past Shaq-less Heat

BY STEVE HERMAN

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Jermaine was the dominant O'Neal on Wednesday night.

With injured Shaquille O'Neal watching from Miami's bench, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal scored all three Pacers baskets in overtime, including a turnaround jumper from the baseline with 11 seconds remaining, in a 93-91 victory over the Heat.

"They may be a little more fluid without him in there," Jermaine O'Neal said. "When he's there, it's a big challenge for the big guys. Without him, they do a lot of things they don't usually do. But I knew I could get a shot over whichever guys they had."

O'Neal finished with 29 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Pacers won their fourth straight and their 11th in a row over the Heat.

Shaquille O'Neal, who injured his knee in an overtime loss at Chicago on Tuesday night, is scheduled for an MRI in Miami on Thursday. He was on the sideline Wednesday as the Eastern Conference-leading Heat rallied from a 14-point deficit in the second quarter.

Miami pulled to 66-63 after three quarters and caught the Pacers in the closing minutes of regulation.

"Tonight was a game I felt was going to be equally tough with or without Shaq, Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.



Indiana Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal. left, hits the game-winning shot over Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem on Wednesday night.

"We were fortunate that Shaq was out, but you never want to see a guy that means this much to our league not playing," Carlisle said. "I know a lot of our fans were disappointed not to get a chance to see him, but these things happen. You hope you can very pleased about that."

Dwyane Wade had 38 points, one point short of his career high set in November against IItah and scored nine in the final eight minutes of the fourth quarter.

We have two tough losses the last two nights, but if one play goes the other way, we're winning those games," Wade said. "We have a lot of confidence in ourselves, and we know when Shaq comes back, we are a better team."

Two free throws by Jermaine O'Neal put Indiana ahead 87-85 with 32 seconds left. but Damon Jones scored on a goaltending call against O'Neal with 18 seconds to go, sending the game to overtime.

After O'Neal's first basket in the extra period, Miami took the lead 91-89 on a rebound tip by Udonis Haslem and two free throws by Wade. O'Neal then tied the game at 91 and rebounded a miss by Wade to set up the winning basket.

"It was drawn up for me to go strong-side and then go weak-side and post up over Haslem," O'Neal said. "I had a couple of inches on him. From that side, it was just me and the backboard. I took the shot and made it.

A desperation shot by Wade went off the rim at the buzzer.

"It felt good," Wade said. "I bobbled the ball a little bit and tried to get it off in time.

It came up a little short. Reggie Miller added 23 points for Indi-

pull it together and win. We did, and we're ana and Stephen Jackson finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Jones had 17 points for the Heat, while Haslem added 11 points and a career-high 18 rebounds.

Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said Wade 'was phenomenal."

"He was great, attacking, making plavs. making jump shots. He was by far the best player on the floor."

Wade, scoring in double figures for a career-high 31st straight game, was the focus of the Heat's offense with Shag on the sideline. He had six early points as Miami jumped ahead 11-4 and five more the rest of the first quarter before the Pacers took control. A three-pointer and two free throws by

Miller tied the game, then O'Neal gave Indiana its first lead less than a minute later There was one more lead change and one more tie before a pair of free throws by Jackson put the Pacers in front. Jackson added a three-pointer and O'Neal scored on a dunk as the Pacers fin-

ished the quarter with a 10-3 run and a 27-21 lead. Indiana built the lead to 14 points mid-

way through the second period before three baskets by Michael Doleac, who started in place of Shaq, keyed a 13-3 run that brought the Heat within four. A basket by O'Neal with a second remaining gave Indiana a 47-41 lead at halftime.

There were five lead changes and eight more ties before O'Neal's winning basket.

#### NBA scoreboard

#### Fastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB								
Boston	27	28	.491	-								
Philadelphia	26	27	.491	-								
New Jersey	23	32	.418	4								
Toronto	22	32	.407	41/2								
New York	21	33	.389	51/2								
Southeast Division												
Miami	40	16	.714	-								
Washington	31	22	.585	71/2								
Orlando	28	25	.528	101/2								
Charlotte	11	40	.216	261/2								
Atlanta	10	43	.189	281/5								
Central Division												
Detroit	33	19	.635	-								
Cleveland	31	21	.596	2								
Chicago	27	24	.529	51/2								
Indiana	27	26	.509	61/2								
Milwaukee	22	30	.423	11								
Western Conference												
Southwest I		ion										
	w	L	Pct	GB								

Southwest Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB						
San Antonio	42	12	.778	-						
Dallas		16	.692	5						
Houston	32	23	.582	101/2						
Memphis	30	24	.556	12						
New Orleans		43	.204	31						
Northwest Division										
Seattle	37	15	.712	-						
Minnesota	27	27	.500	11						
Denver	25		.463	13						
Portland		31	.404	16						
Utah		36	.321	201/2						
Pacific Di										
Phoenix	42	13	.764	-						
Sacramento	34	20	.630	71/2						
L.A. Lakers	28	24	.538	121/2						
L.A. Clippers		31	.426	181/2						
Golden State	16	38	.296	251/2						

# Solden State 16 38 Wednesday's game Indiana 93, Miami 91, OT Cieveland 100, Chicago 91 Washington 93, Memphis 83 Washington 93, Memphis 83 Milwaduce 100, New Persys 101, New Persys 101, New Persys 101, New Persys 101, Atlanta 93 Golden State 100, Atlanta 95 Philadelphia at New York 100, Atlanta 95 Response 100, Atlant

Priday's g Charlotte at New Jersey Denver at Memphis Cleveland at Indiana Toronto at Milwaukee Washington at Chicago Toronto at Milwaukee Washington at Chicago Boston at Utah Atlanta at Portland Detroit at L.A. Lakers Minnesota at Seattle Saturday's games

Saturday's game Orlando at Miami Chicago at Charlotte Indiana at New York Sacramento at Philadelphia Memphis at San Antonio Phoenix at Dallas

#### Wednesday Pacers 93, Heat 91 (OT)

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#### Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91

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#### Wizards 93, Grizzlies 83

MEMPHIS — Battler 4-15 3-4 14, Cardinal 3-9 6-6 14, Wright 3-8 0-0 6, Miller 6-15 3-5 16, Williams 4-11 0-0 10, Humphrey 0-1 0-00, Wat-son 1-8 0-0 2, Wells 2-6 4-5 8, Jones 0-2 1-2 1, Tsakalidis 5-5 0-0 10, Burks 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 28-81 19-24 83.

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#### Bucks 100, Nets 81

NEW JERSEY — Carter 11-27 3-4 26, Collin 2-5 2-2 6, Ja.Smith 3-8 0-0 6, Kidd 3-10 5-6 11 Vaughn 2-9 0-0 4, Mercer 3-12 1-2 7, Robinso Vaughn 2-9 0-0 4, Mercer 3-12 1-2 7, Robinsor 4-9 2-2 10, Thomas 2-3 0-0 5, Campbell 0-0 0-0 0, Best 2-5 0-0 4, Planinic 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-89 13-16 81.

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#### SuperSonics 103, Hornets 85

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#### Mavericks 101, Jazz 83

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#### Nuggets 107, Celtics 86

BOSTON — Pierce 5-13 5-8 16, LaFrentz 2-7 0-05, Blount 2-50-04, Payton 4-11 1-29, Allen 4-10 4-6 12, Jefferson 3-5 3-4 9, Perkins 0-2 2-2 2, West 6-10 4-6 17, Davis 4-13 4-5 12, Gugliot-ta 0-2 0-0 0, Banks 0-1 0-0 0, Welsch 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 30-80 23-33 86. Totals 30-80 23-33 86. DENVER — Martin 8-17 2-4 18, Anthony 3-14 12-14 19, Camby 3-7 0-0 6, DJohnson 5-9 2-2 14, Miller 7-14 8-9 22, Elson 4-6 0-4 8, Boykins 27-3-3 8, Russell 1-4-0-0 3, White 3-7 0-0 8, Ts-kitishviil 0-3 1-2 1, Pope 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-88 28-38 107

28-38 107 Boston 22 22 23 19 – 86 Denver-Point Goals-Boston 21 22 23 19 – 86 Denver-Point Goals-Boston 21 (Ferri 21-2), Leifrentz 1-4, West 1-4, Allen 9-1, Davig 0-2, Payton 0-2, Denver 7-16 (White 2-3, Denver 1-8), Denver 21 (White 2-3, Denver 2-16), Denver 20 (Arthonoston 59), Glein 9-10, Denver 60 (Martin 13), Assists—Boston 18 (Bavis 5), Denver 20 (Arthonoston 59), Denv

#### Spurs 99. Rockets 81

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#### Lakers 86, Trail Blazers 83

Lakers 86, Trall Blazers 83
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#### Suns 118, Clippers 101

Suns 118, Clippers 101

LA CLIPPERS - Simmons 51 H 4-5 23, Brand 7:14 3-5 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-5 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-5 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-6 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-6 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 17, Ross 5-12 5-12, Ross 6-12 5-12, Ross 6-12, Ross 6-1

#### Warriors 101, Hawks 96

Warriors 101.1, Hawks 95
ATLANTA - Harrington 7-16-0 14, I.Smith
2-8 1-2 5, Walker 11:25 0-2 27, Childress 8-17
1-217, Luce 9-11-12, Exceize 0-22-22, Ivey 1-2
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4-6 6, Davis 1-3 2-4 4, Cheaney 1-3-0-4 2, Najera 9-2-9-0 1-0 1633 5-86 212-88 10.



## Robinson, Mashburn dealt away

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - The Philadelphia 76ers completed their second trade in two days, sending forward Glenn Robinson to the New Orleans Hornets for Jamal Mashburn and Rodney Rogers on Thursday.

Both Robinson and Mashburn have yet to play for their teams this year. Mashburn has a knee injury and might never play again.



Robinson. earning more than \$12 million in the final year of his contract is on the injured

list with left ankle tendinitis, though he's been unhappy since losing his starting forward spot in training camp

"We knew what we wanted to do if we were going to move him, Sixers president Billy King said. "If this deal with Rodney didn't come about, we were not going to do a deal just to be moving

Rogers can become a free agent at the end of the year. His three-point shooting fits nicely with coach Jim O'Brien's offensive philosophy, but Rogers is only averaging 9.3 points and shooting just 27.5 percent from three-point range.

Rogers played for O'Brien in

Mashburn is making \$9.3 mil-lion this year and \$10.1 million next year, but seems likely to retire because of his knee injury.



The Philadelphia 76ers traded forward Glenn Robinson to the New Orleans Hornets Thursday.

He hasn't played since last March and won't play for the Sixers King said

The Sixers dramatically reshaped their roster late Wednesday night, acquiring five-time All-Star Chris Webber from Sacra-

#### mento as part of a six-player deal. **Cavs get Welsch from Celtics**

CLEVELAND - The Cleveland Cavaliers addressed their need for a dependable outside shooter Thursday by acquiring guard Jiri Welsch from the Bos ton Celtics for a 2007 first-round draft nick.

Welsch, who started 32 games for Boston this season, should help the Cavaliers improve their woeful three-point shooting. After going 1-for-7 on three-pointers in Wednesday night's win over Chicago, the Cavaliers are ranked 27th out of 30 teams in the NRA from beyond the three-point line.

Welsch has made 32 of 99 three-point attempts this season. He's averaging 7.5 points and 2.5 rebound in 20.5 minutes per

## **Spurs finally solve Rockets**

SAN ANTONIO McGrady could only watch this time while Tony Parker led the San Antonio Spurs to victory

Parker made three inside baskets, including a rare dunk off his own steal, during a decisive 14-3 run in the fourth quarter of a 99-81 win over the Houston Rock-

ets on Wednesday night.

Parker went 6-for-7 in the second half and finished with 22 points, but Spurs coach Gregg Popovich only wanted to talk about his defense

"On defense, he sealed the game for us," Popovich said. "Nobody notices it, they just notice what people do offensively, but on defense, he was very, very

Parker had a season-high five steals. In the first Spurs-Rockets

matchup in early December, McGrady stunned San Antonio by scoring 13 points in the final 35 seconds to lead Houston to a one-point win.

In the second Rockets triumph, McGrady hit a three-pointer with 35 seconds remaining to end the Spurs' comeback hones

But on Wednesday, the last of his team-high 22 points came on a lavup with five minutes left to bring the Rockets within three at 79-76. He took only one more shot, missing a three-pointer with San Antonio leading by 15.

"I think I'm being too passive said McGrady, who shot only 7-for-21, "I'm trying to stay in the offense and getting the other guvs involved — that's how we've been winning. Sometimes it'll hurt us hecause I do need to be more ef-

The victory was the Spurs' first in three tries against Houston this season, and their 16th straight win at home. San Antonio is 24-1 at the SBC Center.

Tim Duncan scored 30 points, including his third three-pointer of the season, and had 11 rebounds for the Spurs. Manu Ginobili added 18 points. Yao Ming had 20 points and

Juwan Howard 16 for the Rockets, who dropped their second in a row after winning eight straight before the All-Star break

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91: At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas Roundup

and LeBron James scored 41 of Cleveland's 57 points in the secand half

Ilganskas scored 33 noints -26 after halftime - and added eight rebounds and seven blocks, matching a career high. James finished with 27 points, 11 assists, six rebounds and five steals as the Cavaliers improved to 21-5 at

Wizards 93, Grizzlies 83: At Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 30 points and Antawn Jamison added 27 to lead the Wiz-Arenas had 10 rebounds and

six assists as the Wizards ended a three-game losing streak and won their fifth in a row at home. Bucks 100, Nets 81: Des-

mond Mason scored 15 points, and ZaZa Pachulia tied his career high with 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead host Milwau-

Michael Redd, who missed the three games before the All-Star break because of sprained index finger, scored 11 points as Milwaukee won for fifth time in seven games.

Vince Carter had 26 points and Jason Kidd added 11 points and seven assists for the Nets, who haven't beaten the Bucks at the Bradley Center in the regular season since a 108-80 victory on March 10, 2000.

SuperSonics 103, Hornets 85: Rashard Lewis made six three-pointers and scored 26 points as visiting Seattle beat New Orleans for the fourth straight time.

Lewis made eight of 11 shots from the field and six of eight three-pointers — one more than the Hornets, capping the performance with a perfect night at the free throw line where he was Ray Allen scored 25 points for

Seattle, including 5-for-11 from three-point range. Luke Ridnour had 14 points, Antonio Daniels 11, and Ronald Murray added 13. Reggie Evans grabbed 14 rebounds

Nuggets 107, Celtics 86: At

Denver, the Nuggets made seem like old times, running to a Moe a win in his first game back on the bench as George Karl's new assistant.

Andre Miller scored 22 points, Carmelo Anthony had 19 and Kenyon Martin had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Seeking some help on the bench, Karl persuaded Moe, his old North Carolina buddy and the winningest coach in Nuggets history, to sit by him for the final 29 games of the season. Moe agreed and the Nuggets played a lot like they did when he was coaching them to 432 victories from 1980-90

Suns 118, Clippers 101: Leandro Barbosa, playing in place of the injured Steve Nash, scored a season-high 22 points helping the Suns hand the Los Angeles Clippers their eighth consecutive loss all on the road

The victory over the depleted Clippers gave the Suns a 42-13 record and assured them of a winning season with 27 games remaining.

The loss ended a disastrous nine-game road trip - the longest in the NRA this season - for the Clippers, whose only victory during the journey came in their opening game against Memphis.

Mavericks 101, Jazz 83: Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 29 points in the second half and visiting Dallas rallied after blowing a 15-point lead. Josh Howard added 18 points

and nine rebounds and Michael Finley scored 24 for the Mavericks, who won their fifth straight.

Lakers 86, Trail Blazers 83: At Portland, Ore., Kobe Bryant had 31 points and Los Angeles held off a second-half Portland

Shareef Abdur-Rahim missed a three-point attempt at the final buzzer, giving the Lakers their third straight win.

Warriors 101, Hawks 96: Jason Richardson scored points, Derek Fisher added 20 and the Golden State sent Atlanta to its 17th straight road loss.

Troy Murphy had a son-high 20 rebounds for the War-riors after missing their final 10 games before the All-Star break with a broken left thumb.

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#### Trade: Iverson finally gets help inside being traded to Toronto for Doug

TRADE, FROM BACK PAGE

"If there's anything we need, it's definitely a big man," he said Monday. "A big man would help us a lot, especially a big man that can rebound and block shots.

Webber, the No. 1 overall pick in 1993 following a stellar career at Michigan, has played exceptionally well for the Kings in recent weeks, averaging 21.3 points, 9.7 rebounds and 5.5 assists per game - though he isn't the athlete he was before knee surgery.

Williamson, a first-round draft pick by the Kings in 1995, played five years in Sacramento before

Christie following the 1999-00 season. The NBA's top sixth man in 2001-02 with the Pistons, Williamson is averaging 10.8 points and 3.7 rebounds this season.

Thomas, an undersized power forward with a reliable jumper, fell out of favor with coach Jim O'Brien this season, while Skinner was a free-agent bust. Barnes, a Sacramento native,

has been a seldom-used reserve for the Kings this season, though he took Stojakovic's spot in the starting lineup recently. Bradley was acquired earlier in the sea son in Sacramento's deal for Moblev, but hasn't played much.

Petrie had never made a significant in-season trade before this season but made two in recent The Kings acquired Cutti no Mobley from Orlando for Christie last month, beginning his most radical reshaping of Sacramento's roster since 1999.

Stoiakovic, Bibby and injured guard Bobby Jackson are the only remaining Kings who were with the team in the 2003 playoffs. 'I think we can still have a very

good basketball team the remain-der of the season." Petrie said. "It's going to be a challenge with the amount of change we've made now, because I'm trying to blend in even more new faces with 29 games to go. I have a lot of confidence in our remaining nucleus.

## RACING STRIPES A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



Tony Stewart signs autographs for fans in the garage area of the Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 18. Stewart, who has won IRL and Nextel Cup series titles, might be content to walk away from racing if he could win the Indy and Daytona 500s,

## **Eye on the finish line**

## Stewart already making plans for life after racing

44 If I could get

everuthing done I

want to get done.

I would probably

be gone from here

by now.77

Tony Stewart

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

ony Stewart is someday going to break through and win the big races that always seem to get away from him. He's had chances at his beloved Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and has had victory in sight at the Daytona 500, only to come up short at the very end

If Stewart ever scores those wins, he might just climb out of his car and call it a career.
"If I could get everything done I want to get done,

I would probably be gone from here by now — I would have won everything I wanted to win," Stewart said

When the day comes that Stewart quits full-time racing, he'll walk away with a résumé that will rank him among the most talented drivers ever.

He has nine championships in various forms of racing, starting with a Karting title he won in 1980 at 8 years old. He was the first driver in history to win USAC's Triple Crown in 1995 and he won the IRL series title in 1997. He then became the first IRL driver to successfully transition into NASCAR, where he claimed the 2002 series championship

Those championships have given Stewart a great-er respect for the crown jewels on every schedule. He understands what an Indianapolis 500 title means to a driver's résumé, and the same for a Daytona 500 victory.

A driver can win 100 championships, but will for-

ever be recognized for the big wins.
"I remember what it was like to win the IRL championship," Stewart said. "The next year, it was a weight lifted off my shoulders. I could concentrate on individual races. I didn't even look hardly at the

points sheet Perhaps that explains why Stewart hasn't really been a factor in the

NASCAR's championship race since his 2002 title. He's already got that trophy, its the others he needs to complete his career

He came close again last weekend, leading a race-high 107 laps in

But with the finish line in sight, he again had the biggest win of his career snatched away when good buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. pushed him out of the draft during a late-race pass for the lead and Stewart was shuffled back into traffic.

He ended up a distant seventh, bitterly disappointed again after joining the late Dale Earnhardt in the record book for

> Earnhardt was the last driver to dominate the race and not win, leading 107 laps in 1993 and fail-ing to earn a trip to Victory Lane.

Stewart led the most laps at Daytona last year, too. But in the end, Earnhardt Jr. had the better car and Stewart ended up pushing him to the win.

Stewart is 0-for-7 in the Daytona 500 and the first driver since Bobby Allison to lead the most laps in consecutive 500s since he did it in 1981 and 1982. But Allison won in 1982

Stewart is still trying. "We could write a book about it. How many years did Dale Earnhardt go through it?" crew chief Greg Zipadelli moaned. "Hopefully we don't have to wait that long (20 years) to win one of these things.

As long as the title eludes him, Stewart might stick around NASCAR He's made no secret of his desire to get out while

he's still young - he's 33 now - and is already planning for his future. He owns teams in the World of Outlaws and USAC racing series and recently bought famed Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio

the dirt track where he started his career.

So now he spends his free time learning the ins

and outs of running a race track.

For now, all he cares about is chasing those elusive victories — his next battle comes in August at Indy's Brickyard 400 because he says he's taking a break from the heartbreaking Indianapolis 500 right now — and building his portfolio.

"I might be one of those guys who wakes up one morning and say 'I've had enough' or decide to sign another five-year contract," he said "You know me. It may depend on which way the wind's blowing right

#### NEXTEL CUP

#### Race 2: Auto Club 500 California Speedway 8 p.m. Sunday CET AFN-Atlantic

Last race: Jeff Gordon overtook Dale Earnhardt Jr. three laps from the scheduled end, then held off Kurt Busch and Earnhardt in extra laps to become only the fifth driver to win three Daytona 500s. There were four lead changes in the last nine lans and two crashes involving a total of 17 cars in the last 20 laps.

Last year: Gordon won his third Auto Club 500, finishing 12,871 seconds ahead of teammate Jimmie Johnson. He won the inaugural race in 1997 and again in 1999.

#### Driver to watch: Jeff Gordon



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1. Jeff Gordon	
2. Kurt Busch	
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr	
4. Scott Riggs	160
4. Jimmie Johnson	160
6. Tony Stewart	15
7. Mark Martin	
8. Sterling Marlin	14
9. Kevin Lepage	
10. Rusty Wallace	
11. Elliott Sadler	
12. Joe Nemechek	
13. Carl Edwards	12
14. Dave Blaney	12

#### **BUSCH SERIES**

Last race: Tony Stewart drove through the grass, passed his buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. and wound up winning the Hershey's Take 5

re: Mavico 200 March 6 Mavico City FORMULA ONE

day, ARN-Sports).

Last race Bobby Hamilton was awarded the victory in the wreck-filled Florida Dodge Dealers 250 at Jayona International Speedway after Jimmy Spencer Initially took the Circle Hamilton took the lead after a restart with one lap to go, but Spencer was back in front when an eight-truck week started. However, before the caution flag came out, Hamilton moved back in front and became last starting position.

Next prace: World Florancial Group 200.

Next prace: World Florancial Group 200.

Next prace: World Florancial Group 200.

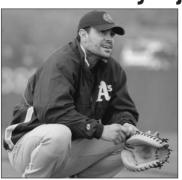
Next race: World Financial Group 200, March 18, Hampton, Ga.

#### CHAMP CARS

ext race: Season-opening Toyota GP of g Beach (Calif.), April 10.

Standings for other series on Page 24.

## Kendall already enjoying Athletics' winning vibe



Oakland Athletics catcher Jason Kendall, who's hoping for a change after nine losing seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, hit .319 last season and has a .306 career batting average.

BY JANIE McCAULEY The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Jason Kendall could sense a winning vibe from the moment he walked into Oakland's spring training complex.

It's quite a change from what he's been used to after spending nine losing seasons in Pittsburgh.

"I kind of feel like a nookie in a roundabout way," the Athletics' new catcher said Wednesday, "We've just got a bunch of good guys. Everybody's cool. Not to say that wasn't the case over there, but you walk into the clubhouse and the atmosphere is like, 'Hey, you know what get your work done and come April 4, let's go

Kendall will be counted upon to nurture the A's young pitching staff and also help this club get back on track after it missed the playoffs for the first time in five vears.

The A's acquired Kendall in a November trade that sent left-handed pitchers Mark Redman and Arthur Rhodes to the Pi-

ites. The Pirates had tried to swap

him for several years and apparently were in serious talks with the San Diego Padres in 2003 but nothing got done.

General manager Billy Beane admired Kendall from afar for years, and Kendall waived his no-trade clause to play for a contender closer to his Manhattan Beach, Calif., home. The decision took a "half-second," he said.

"It's awesome," rookie right-hander Joe Blanton said of having Kendall around. "Any time you can throw to somebody like that, it's just great. He's been catching for that long and he's been in the game and knows the game."

Kendall is spending his early days in spring training meeting pitchers and learning their personalities and tendencies. A three-time All-Star and 306

career hitter, he likely will bat second behind Mark Kotsay. Kendall mostly hit leadoff last season and batted 319.

"Kendall is a blue-collar guy and a guy I've admired just watching him play," A's first baseman Scott Hatteberg said. "I'm excited to see him on a daily basis." While there's plenty of work to do with pitchers, Kendall believes a big part of spring training is just getting back in a routine for him, being back down in the catcher's stance for hours at a

It always takes his body a few days to adjust.

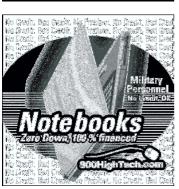
Kendall appreciates the business approach of the A's, who are known for having one of baseball's most easygoing clubhouses in recent years.

"Everybody knows what they have to do to get ready for a sea-son," Kendall said. "Go about your business and get your work in. We're treated like grown men, which is the way it should be."

Kendall enjoys the daily duties of studying hitters and prepping pitchers. He expects a fairly smooth adjustment to the American League. This will be his 10th big league season, so he's seen most everybody at some point.

"In baseball today, everybody changes teams," he said. "I couldn't tell you what 30 times 30 is, but I can tell what I threw Todd Helton three years ago on a 2-1 count."

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#### Bonds, Grissom, Alou make up old but talented Giants outfield

BY JANIE MCCAULEY The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — A day after his bizarre news conference, Barry Bonds took a break from knee treatment to hand out a few hitting tips to Moises Alou

and Marquis Grissom.

These three will make up one old outfield this season.

Bonds, the left fielder chasing

the home run record, is 40.
Alou, San Francisco's new right fielder, is 38. And Grissom is the 37-year-old center fielder.

They aren't concerned about their age, even if having fresh legs might mean taking a few more days off this season. All three could be seen leaning on the back of the batting cage at the same time Wednesday, when the Giants held their first full-squad workout.

"I think it's an advantage," said manager Felipe Alou, Moises' father. "The older outfielders are going to be asked a lot of questions. They all know they're going

to need their days off."

That's where Michael Tucker comes in. He'll be the top backup, expected to give the old guys a reprieve whenever needed.

"We're all old on our team, so it's going to be interesting," Bonds said. "I'm going to talk to Michael Tucker a lot. We're going to go three days and then Tucker is going to play 162 — left, center, right, left, center, right — while

the rest of us take some time off."
While trainer Stan Conte prefers to call them veterans, the players' teammates are already having fun with the age jokes.

Reliever Scott Eyre carried a chair onto the field for a team meeting Wednesday, offering Bonds a seat since he's nursing two surgically repaired knees.



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, left, gives tips from behind the batting cage to new teammate Moises Alou, right, at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Wednesday.

Eyre isn't the only one. David Forst, the Oakland Athletics' assistant general manager, took a friendly jab at the team across San Francisco Bay duringa a recent baseball luncheon. Forststated the Giants on their 48th year in San Francisco, then noted it was also the average age of the team's outfield.

But they're productive all right. Bonds, Grissom and Alou accounted for 106 home runs and

297 RBIs last season.

Alou, who hit a career-high 39 homers with 106 RBIs last season for the Chicago Cubs, will bat behind Bonds. Everybody hopes

Alou's presence will cause opposing managers to think twice about walking Bonds.

Bonds had 45 homers and 101

Bottos had 45 nomers and 101 RBIs last year, and begins his 20th major league season 11 homers shy of Babe Ruth (714) and 52 short of Hank Aaron (755) on the career list. "You know, I know that I'm older now," said Bonds, who turns 41 in July." I put my body through a lot in 147 games last year. I played more games than anyone on my team. I'm still trying to recover from that. But the most part is just my knees. I have to be able to play at the level that I want to play at the level that I want to play at the series of the series o

Grissom hit 22 homers and drove in 90 runs last season, and he spent his winter watching a lot more film in an effort to improve his production.

The Giants picked up Grissom's \$2.75 million option in November.

"We all are proven," Grissom said of the old guys. "There's a lot of experience, so I don't think it should be a problem. Holding up wise, I think we'll all do pretty good. At the end, we're looking to go to postseason play. Tm not expecting anything less out of my-

self or the other two guys either."

And Tucker refuses to worry
about his diminished role. He
knows the other three will need

their days off.
"You can't really be upset with what's gone on," Tucker said.

"Look at what the outfield situation looks like — you've got maybe a future Hall of Fame left fielder, you've got an All-Star center fielder and you bring in another All-Star outfielder to play

"They're up there in age, man. But at the same time, all three guys are still really capable of putting up the same numbers they have in the past."

Tucker, 34, started in 114 of his 140 games last season — with 97 starts in right and 17 in center. A 10-year veteran, he batted .256 with 13 homers and a career-high 62 RBIs.

## Sosa's powerful display wows Orioles

#### Slugger reports to camp; Red Sox put final touches on ring ceremony

Sammy Sosa introduced himself to his new Baltimore teammates the best way he knew: with a power display



baseballs far over the center-field wall during his first workout with the Orioles in

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Wednesday. Before he was done, nearly half the squad interrupted their drills to watch the show

"Sammy, we're going to run out of balls!" joked outfielder Larry Bigbie, who watched in awe as one shot after another soared onto an airfield behind the practice field

The Chicago Cubs were relieved to get rid of Sosa after his troubled 2004 season, and the Orioles are delighted to have him

During his stay in Chicago, Sosa battled with Mark McGwire in a memorable home run duel in 1998, went to the All-Star Game seven times and was the 1998 NL MVP. But he contends that the corked bat and his early departure from the ballpark ruined an otherwise wonderful relationship. "For the 13 years I was in Chica-

go, I only made two mistakes That's pretty good," he said. "If I had known that leaving early last year would have caused such a controversy I would have never done it. My manager told me I had a day off. But what can I say?

In Fort Myers, Fla., the Boston Red Sox learned they will get their World Series rings at their home opener on April 11 before a sold-out Fenway Park crowd and the New York Yankees.

"I'm sure I'm not going to help them hand them out." Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said to laughter at New York's camp in

"But they deserve it. I'm sure they've been looking forward to this for a long time. So let them do

Boston became the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 deficit in the playoffs, doing it against their biggest rival in the AL championship series last October. The Red Sox then swept St. Louis in the World Series.

"This is the kind of quality problem I hope we're going to be able



Ugueth Urbina spoke with reporters for the first time about the rescue of his kidnanned mother.



In his first workout with the Orioles, Sammy Sosa hit two dozen balls far over the center-field wall in Fort Lauderdale. Fla., on Wednesday.

to have with some frequency," Red Sox President Larry Lucchino said, "sit around at spring training and decide just when, oh when, do we give out the World Series championship rings.

To accommodate fans who didn't get tickets to Opening Day, the rings will be displayed at a welcome-home dinner attended by players that same night and at a display on the Fenway Park field along with the World Series tronhy and the ball Doug Mientkiewicz caught for the last out of the Series

"Even though the fans are not getting it, they have to feel like they're receiving one because they all deserve it," David Ortiz said. "They supported us a lot through the years.

In Lakeland, Fla., Ugueth Urbina said he planned to report to spring training, even if his kidnanned mother still was being

He didn't want to show her captors that he was weak. Now that Maura Villarreal is safe following a rescue operation Friday, Urbina said an indescribable weight has been lifted from his shoulders.

"I feel like I'm 18 years old," the Detroit Tigers reliever said, speaking publicly about the ordeal for the first time.

Villarreal, 54, was rescued by Venezuelan police during an eight-hour raid that left two of her abductors dead, two captured and seven others as fugitives. Police described the kidnappers as Venezuelan and Colombian drug

She was held for 5 months, 18 days in a camp that police called a drug-traffickers' hideout in Venezuela's southern mountains. Urbina and his two brothers

Ulmer and Ulises, were at a loss. "There wasn't much we could tion, and we didn't know where she was," Urbina said. "Where can you go to try to find her? She could be anywhere. It's hard.

'It's not like the movies. It's real life "

In Winter Haven, Fla., Cleveland's Juan Gonzalez became the latest player to deny Jose Canseco's accusation of using steroids.

'It's not true. ... I never saw needles. I never saw pills. I never saw anything. ... The only guys who have put needles in my body are doctors." Gonzalez said.

In Kissimmee, Fla., Atlanta shortstop Rafael Furcal hustled off the field, ignoring several television crews that wanted to speak with him. At his locker a few minutes later, he responded tersely to an interview request: "Are you going to ask me about baseball?"

He spent 13 days in jail during the offseason and four weeks in an alcohol treatment center following his second conviction for drunken driving. The 26-year-old Furcal gave up alcohol after his latest arrest, but also said he doesn't believe he has a drinking problem.

"Just bad luck," he said.

In Scottsdale, Ariz., manager Felipe Alou said he thinks he'll probably be back with the San Francisco Giants for a fourth season in 2006. His contract ends after this sea-

son and Alou turns 70 in May, but he has shown he still has enough energy to lead the Giants for 162 games. He also wants to manage his son, Moises, for another sea-In Bradenton, Fla., Pittsburgh

said catching prospect J.R. House underwent surgery to repair a torn labrum and torn rotator cuff in Birmingham, Ala., and he'll miss the entire season

## Temple's Chaney suspends himself for one game

PHILADELPHIA — Temple basketball coach John Chaney suspended himself Wednesday for one game and apologized for putting a player in against Saint Joseph's a day earlier for the sole purpose of rough play and quick fouls.



Chaney offered the self-imposed suspension after meeting with Temple President David Adamany and athletic director Bill Bradshaw. He will be replaced on the

bench by assistant Dan Leibovitz for Saturday's game against Massachusetts

"I would like to apologize to Saint Joseph's University, its fans, student-athletes and head coach Phil Martelli for my renrehensible behavior during Tuesday night's game," Chaney said in a statement. spoke with Coach Martelli today to voice my apology to him and his team

Chaney said he was not surprised by reaction to Tuesday's home game.

"I'm either good or bad in some neonle's eves." Chanev said in a brief telephone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "There's no gray area. I apologized to the people that matter most.

Adamany also reacted to some Temple students spitting in the direction of Saint



ting in players solely to hard fouls during a loss to Saint Joseph's.

Joe's players and cheerleaders. He said the first few rows of the student section at the Liacouras Center would be empty for Saturday's game as a reminder they should uphold the standards of good sportsmanship Upset by what he thought were illegal screens by Saint Joseph's that were not peing called, Chane turned

dom-used 6-foot-8, 250-pound Nehemiah Ingram to "send a message." Ingram started throwing his arms around and tossing elbows, once connecting hard to the chin of Hawks center Dwayne Jones, and had a hard foul on John Bryant that left him sprawled on the Ingram fouled out in 4 minutes, his aver-

age playing time for a game this season. Chaney said after the game he was going to send in a "goon.

"Ingram was not the only person I put in Chaney said Wednesday. "I put three or four players in there and were tell-ing them to make hard fouls."

Chaney, called for a technical in the second half after berating officials, said he never wanted his players to hurt anyone.

#### Injury ends Marquette star's season

MILWAUKEE - Travis Diener's college career is over thanks to a broken hand, leaving him 83 points short of surpassing George Thompson as Marquette's career leading scorer.

Diener, a Cousy Award finalist as the nation's top point guard, broke his left hand Tuesday and underwent surgery that night Diener leads Conference USA with aver-

ages of 19.7 points and seven assists, and is the only player in the country to lead a major conference in both categories. The Golden Eagles are 18-8, 6-7 in Con-

ference IISA

#### NASCAR penalizes R. Gordon

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - Robby Gordon Motorsports was fined \$50,000 Wednesday and docked 25 championship noints the most severe nenalty for violations at Daytona International Speedway. NASCAR fined crew chief Bob Temple

and deducted points from car owner Jim Smith for an unapproved intake manifold on his Chevrolet on Feb. 11 during the initial Nextel Cup inspection for the season-opening Daytona 500.

Gordon, driver and part owner of the new team, failed to make the starting lineur for the Daytona 500 and has no points. Smith earned 31 based on qualifying results

The Wood Brothers Racing team was assessed four penalties because of an unapproved spoiler adjustment found on the Ford driven by Ricky Rudd. He was penalized 25 points, Glen Wood lost owner points, crew chief Michael McSwain was fined \$25,000 and crew member Marc Smith was suspended from NASCAR competition until March 31.

#### Rain halts play in Qatar Open

DOHA, Oatar - Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia was leading Conchita Martinez of Spain 5-4 Thursday in the first set of the Qatar Open quarterfinals when rain halted

Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo. ond-seeded Maria Sharapova and No. 4 seed Alicia Molik were scheduled to play quarterfinal matches Thursday in the \$600,000 tournament.

## **Enigmatic Moss headed to Oakland**

#### Vikings will reportedly get LB Harris, No. 7 pick and late-round selection

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Randy Moss' electrifying talent was no longer enough for the Minnesota Vikings to put up with his dis-

tracting antics.

Dante DiTrapano, Moss' agent, told The
Associated Press on Wednesday that the Vikings and the Oakland Raiders had "come
to an agreement on Randy playing for Oak-

Neither the Vikings nor the Raiders would confirm the deal, which was first reported by The St. Paul Pioneer Press.

"We have had discussions with the Oakland Raiders, but there's nothing to announce," Rob Brzezinski, Minnesota's vice president of football operations, told The Associated Press.

Raiders spokesman Mike Taylor said, "I cannot comment on the deal specifically, however, this organization has always been tremendously aggressive and Randy Moss rates with the great players of all-time. Great players want to play for the Raiders."

DiTrapano said he didn't know the terms of the deal, but the Pioneer Press reported the Vikings would get linebacker Napoleon Harris, along with the seventh overall pick and a late-round pick in the upcoming draft.

The deal cannot become official until March 2, the start of the NFL's fiscal year. Moss is due to make \$7.25 million next year. Harris is due to make \$5.41 million.

year. Harris is due to make \$5.41 million.
Oakland's renegade owner Al Davis has long embraced combustible players and the vertical passing game, so adding Moss

seems to be a perfect fit.

The timing of the move comes as a bit of a surprise with the Vikings in the midst of an ownership change. Red McCombs has agreed to sell the team to Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler, a deal that still needs

to be approved by the NFL.

Trade rumors have surrounded the flam-

boyant Moss during the offseason.

He struggled with a hamstring injury, but had 13 touchdown catches last season. He was fined \$10,000 for pretending to pull down his pants and moon the Green Bay crowd during Minnesota's playoff win. He also drew criticism for leaving the field with 2 seconds left in a regular-season loss against Washington.

Team leaders Matt Birk and Daunte Culpepper confronted Moss after he walked off at Washington, and the organization's patience with the receiver seemed to dwindle in the past year or so.

"He's my good friend, but you almost get to thinking that maybe enough is enough," Culpepper said earlier this month at the Pro Bowl. "And maybe the Vikings organization has had enough."

Last year's transgressions were the latest in a long line of headline-grabbing negative behavior for Moss that included bumping a traffic control officer with his car in



Despite averaging 82 catches, 1,306 yards and 12.9 TD receptions while missing only three games in seven NFL seasons, most fans remember Randy Moss for mooning fans in Green Bay this January.

2002, verbally abusing corporate sponsors on a team bus in 2001 and squirting an official with a water bottle in 1999.

But when he was focused and healthy on the field, there was no denying his considerable ability.

His 9,142 receiving yards are the most by any player over his first seven seasons. The Vikings' offensive identity was built around Moss' uncanny ability to leap over smaller defensive backs to catch deep passes.



#### Done deal: QB Bledsoe joins Dallas

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells turned to another of his former quarterbacks in hopes of getting the Dallas Cow-

NFL briefs boys back into the playoffs. Drew Bledsoe, 33, was reunited with the

coach who made him the first overall pick in the NFL Draft 12 years ago, signing a three-year contract Wednesday that will further push back the ascension of Drew Henson as the Cowboys' starting quarterback. The deal is worth about \$14 million, but much of that is packed into the final year. He received about a \$2 million signing bonus and will make about as much this season.

"Tm convinced that we were writing things off to have not had a veteran quarterback," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "I'm not into, for our fans, almost by design having a season that's not competitive."

#### Fielder released by Dolphins

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins released quarterback Jay Fiedler on Wednesday, ending his five-year run as the much-maligned successor to Dan Marino.

Last year, Fiedler started just seven games while spending much of the season on the injured list with a herniated disc. Fiedler was due a \$2 million roster bonus in March.

#### Eagles tender Westbrook

PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles tendered restricted free agent Brian Westbrook on Wednesday, giving Philadelphia the right to match any offer he receives or a first-round pick from any team that signs him.

The one-year tender will cost the team \$1.43 million.

On Thursday, the team released linebacker Nate Wayne.

# **SPORTS**



Racing Stripes: Still lacking victories in big events, Stewart plans for life after racing, Page 28

## Kings move forward

Sacramento ships Webber to 76ers, gets little in return

> BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

Chris Webber finally left Sacramento — and for a whole lot less than a King's ransom.

Now, the Kings will find out whether they're really a better team without their cornerstone, and the Philadelphia 76ers will learn whether another superstar can thrive alongside Allen Iver-

The Kings dealt Webber to the Sixers late Wednesday night in a six-player deal that dramatically reshaped both clubs on the eve of the trade deadline.

Philadelphia got Webber, one of the NBA's elite power forwards and a five-time All-Star, along with reserve forwards Matt Barnes and Michael Bradley. The Sixers gave up relatively little in return, sending veteran forwards Corliss Williamson, Kenny Thomas and Brian Skinner to the Kings.

Webber's departure from Sacramento has been discussed nearly since the moment Geoff Petric acquired him from Washington before the 1999 season. The Kings president of basketball operations rebuilt the small-market Kings are the season of the season of the season of the season of the season rebuilt the small-market Kings around Webber, transforming the franchise from a perennial loser to a club with six straight winning seasons and two division titles.

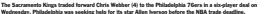
"He has been an instrumental part of ushering in an era of basketball here in Sacramento that most of the world at that time did not believe could happen," Petrie said late Wednesday night.

"I don't think myself or anyone in this organization could thank him enough."

Petrie was typically vague about his reasons for the deal, citing only "flexibility and versatility," but Webber is due to make \$52 million over the next three seasons — and Petrie clearly is among the NBA observers who believe Sacramento's up-tempo passing offense will be even better without Webber in the middle. Peia Stoiskovic. Brad Miller

and Mike Bibby all thrived last season while Webber recovered from knee surgery — but all three stars regressed when Webber returned. Though both Webber and Stojakovic denied rumors of a rift between Sacramento's stars, Stojakovic demanded a trade from the Kings last summer.





And though Webber had the best years of his career in Sacramento, the forward with the megawatt smile and larger-than-life personality always longed for a bigger stage — even after the Kings re-signed him to a seven-year deal worth approximately \$127 million in 2001.

In Philadelphia, Webber will get the national attention he always craved — and Iverson will get some of the help he has always wanted. "The message that we're sending is that we went out and got a player who's averaging 21 and 10 to go along with our young players," Sixers president Billy King said. "I think the way we play, it allows some of our younger guys to develop even more because you've got a big guy now that can really make passes and shoot the

jump shot."
The 76ers host the Kings on Saturday, and Philadelphia will play in Sacramento on March 28.

The Sixers are 26-27 and just a

half-game behind Boston for first place in the Atlantic Division, while the Kings have the NBA's seventh-best record at 34-20 heading out on a six-game road trip, their longest of the season. Iverson, the NBA's leading scor-

er, claimed he didn't ask to be traded if the Sixers didn't make any bold moves to contend in a weakened Eastern Conference this year — but the All-Star Game MVP believed the Sixers needed help to make a playoff push.

SEE TRADE ON PAGE 27



Vikings sending receiver Moss to Raiders

Page 31



Villanova topples fourth top 25 team of season with win over Boston College

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Sosa puts on hitting display for new teammates

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